FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 FEBRUARY 1986

IDF Search Operation in Lebanon

IDF units continued their search for the two kidnapped Israeli soldiers on the morning of 19 February, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that IDF officers believe the kidnap squad is still in southern Lebanon. Meanwhile, the Islamic Resistance warned that one of the captive Israelis will be executed if the IDF does not withdraw by 1900 GMT 19 February from all the villages that were "targets of the latest Israeli invasion," AFP disclosed. The IDF spokesman earlier acknowledged that an IDF corporal was killed 18 February when an Israeli boat off the coast of Tyre came under fire from the shore, according to Jerusalem radio. The IDF uncovered many arms caches and interrogated hundreds of local residents in the searches that day, the radio noted. Beirut radio carried various reports on local resistance to the Israelis, including an Amal Movement statement claiming that the Israelis lost a helicopter, a warship, and a tank in the fighting. In remarks broadcast by the radio, Amal leader Nabih Birri congratulated the kidnappers on their "heroic deed" and told Israel that "the only solution lies in its unconditional and total withdrawal, along with its agents, from all Lebanese territory." In another development, the kidnappers of a group of Lebanese Jews announced the execution of another Jewish hostage in a communique reported by AFP, maintaining that the "spy" was executed in response to Israel's "terrorist" operations in southern Lebanon.

Iran-Iraq War

The three Iraqi columns resumed their advance 18 February after crushing a series of "desperate" enemy attacks in which 1,280 Iranians were killed and large numbers were captured, Iraq announced in a military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. The Iraqi Navy destroyed another troop ship carrying Iranian reinforcements, the communique added, and Iraqi air defenses shot down two more Iranian warplanes. Another Iranian fighter was downed early 19 February, according to an Iraqi spokesman cited by INA.

An Iranian communique reported by Tehran radio acknowledged "large-scale" Iraqi attempts to penetrate Iranian positions around Al Faw 18 February, but maintained that the Iranians inflicted a severe defeat on the enemy, killing or wounding hundreds of enemy troops. On the chemical weapons issue, IRNA noted that 35 Iranians have arrived in West Europe to receive treatment for injuries caused by chemical weapons.

Jordan

In a related development, the Jordanian Government denounced "flagrant Libyan support for the criminal Iranian aggression" in a statement broadcast by Amman radio, reaffirming Jordan's "full support" for Iraq.

Libya-Chad

GUNT forces have military control over Zigey, Kouba Olanga, and six other towns below the 16th parallel in Chad, a GUNT military spokesman told Libya's Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio. The spokesman condemned the French Government air raid on Ouadi Doum airport 16 February and said that a Chadian pilot flying a GUNT fighter plane attacked Ndjamena airport in retaliation.

Syria

Damascus television broadcast the "text" of President Hafiz al-Asad's interview with the Paris paper *LIBERATION* in which he emphasized his desire to avoid any Syrian military intervention in internal Lebanese conflicts, even if the parties fail to reach a solution. Affirming that the tripartite agreement remains "the only door for the Lebanese to achieve peace," Al-Asad criticized President Amin al-Jumayyil's stand on the agreement as "not positive or constructive." On relations with Jordan, he stressed the importance of continuing good relations, though he noted that no date has been set for him to visit Amman. As for the PLO, Al-Asad disclosed that he received PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi in Damascus "a few months ago," but he reiterated Syria's opposition to the PLO-Jordanian agreement.

Algeria

President Chadli Bendjedid appointed four new ministers and five new deputy ministers and reorganized the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee, Algiers radio reported.

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Syria Opposed To Iranian Intrusion Into Iraq

GF180903 Doha QNA in Arabic 0815 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Feb (QNA) — Press reports published here today indicated that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad informed Iran anew that any intrusion into Iraqi territory is regarded as an intrusion of the Syrian territories.

Citing a source in the presidential palace, the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM* said that President al-Asad recalled Iran's ambassador in Damascus and told him that Syria — which has defined its stand on this basis since the outbreak of the Iraqi-Iranian war — "still commits itself to this and will never deviate from it." The source added that Syria also confirmed its position to Saudi and Kuwaiti foreign ministers His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad during their visit to Damascus yesterday. The paper indicated that the results of the visit of the Saudi and Kuwaiti ministers will appear shortly and they will be much further than diplomatic circles expect.

PLO's Khalil al-Wazir on Israel,'Arafat, USSR

GF151505 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 14 Feb 86 p 16

[Interview with Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, by an unidentified correspondent in Amman — date not given]

[Text][*AL-WATAN*] Israel has been accusing you for a long time of being the head of terrorism.

[Khalil al-Wazir] We are fighting for the freedom of our people and for achieving a just solution to the Palestinian issue. The terrorism to which our people are being subjected and the expropriation of lands and the continuous attempt to destroy our national entity give us the right to defend ourselves. The threater of our operations is not in Europe, but in the place where our people are living under occupation. Moreover, the enemy is resorting to the organized state terrorism which gives it the right to punish the inhabitants who are living under the yoke of occupation and to expel and kill them.

[*AL-WATAN*] In addition to the military operations you are also responsible for economic life in the occupied territories. What about this aspect?

[Al-Wazir] Israel resorts to cruel and perfidious measures to destroy the Palestinian economy in the Arab territories which it occupied in 1967. Israel has imposed more than 30 different kinds of fees and taxes not found in any other part of the world. The Israelis control more than 54 percent of the lands in the West Bank and have established more than 190 settlements that constitute a nucleus for future towns. To help our people who are living under occupation we are making various efforts, including financial support, although our capabilities are limited. Of course, our objective is to maintain all features of social life beginning from agriculture and up to health and the cultural identity of our people. We want our people to stay on the land and not to leave it at all.

[*Al-WATAN*] Under the circumstances and situations prevailing now in the Middle East and in some Arab countries, the PLO depends only on its forces. Therefore, the divisions inside the PLO have weakened the Palestinian positions.

[Al-Wazir] We not deny that there are differences and that we have passed through different crises. Anyway we have achieved a high degree of unity inside Fatah. The legitimate leadership in Fatah enjoys the support of all elements and parties. Moreover, the divisions inside the movement resulted from the interference of foreign forces. This interference in Palestinian affairs continues now, especially when the matter concerns Syria's position toward certain Palestinian parties. Syria plays the role of mandate, thus denying the Palestinian right to self-determination. Despite the difficulties, we are making contacts with all parties and we will do what we can to achieve national unity. This is not easy. We again called for a PNC meeting to confirm national unity.

[*Al-WATAN*] There is an increasing Palestinian presence in Lebanon. What are your objectives?

[Al-Wazir] After the withdrawal from Beirut in 1982 a large number of our fighters returned to Lebanon. The reason for that is simple. Those men left their families there and it is natural that they wish to return.

[*Al-WATAN*] With their weapons?

[Al-Wazir] The fighters have returned to Lebanon in different ways, but without weapons. The Israeli Navy is watching the Lebanese coasts. It searches all passengers who arrive in Lebanon by sea and take the Palestinians to a camp in Hefa.

[*AL-WATAN*] According to Lebanese sources the PLO is using Jordanian lands to train its forces and send them to the occupied territories. Is there an agreement with Jordan in this regard?

[Al-Wazir] There are 1.5 million Palestinians in Jordan and there are 2 million Palestinians in the occupied territories. Jordan is the gateway to our homeland and it is the place of contact with our people. Jordan does not allow any training operation, nor does it allow the dispatch of Fedayeen to the occupied territories. Israel is making these claims to justify its attacks against our institutions in Jordan.

[*AL-WATAN*] There are rumors that King Husayn rejected a request by Yasir 'Arafat regarding the recognition of the right of Palestinians to self-determination.

[Al-Wazir] The question does not lie in the rejection or denial of our rights by King Husayn. King Husayn conveys the U.S. position; this is the core of the problem. The U.S. Administration rejects our right to self-determination.

[*Al-WATAN*] Why is there a coolness in relations between the PLO and the Soviet Union? How do you explain the changes that have taken place after the U.S.-Soviet summit?

[AL-Wazir] Our movement is a national liberation movement that has been struggling against U.S. imperialism for more than 20 years. During this struggle the Soviet Union has been a friend.

We do not deny that Palestinian-Soviet relations passed through a cool period. Differences took place because the Soviet Union opposed the Amman agreement due to incorrect information it received from Syria. Through quiet dialogue we managed to clarify many matters. After Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with Soviet envoy Polyakov several meetings were held between Palestinian and Soviet officials, especially during a visit made by a Palestinian delegation led by Faruq Qaddumi.

[*AL-WATAN*] Several meetings have taken place recently between the PLO and representatives of the Syrian Government. Does this mean that there is a possibility of an improvement in Syrian-Palestinian relations?

[Al-Wazir] We think that Syria is responsible for the weak relations. Through contacts made in several European cities we stressed that Syria should put an end to its crusade against our legitimate leadership and stop creating splits in the Fatah movement and in various Palestinian organizations. We repeat that Israel is the only beneficiary from the deterioration of relations between Syria and the PLO.

[*AL-WATAN*] What about the representation of the PLO in an international conference? Are you ready to accept Security Council Resolution No 242?

[Al-Wazir] We consider Resolution No 242 inadequate for achieving our rights and destiny. The PNC has decided not to accept this resolution, because it regards the Palestinian issue as an issue of refugees and not as an issue of a people and legitimate rights. The United Nations adopted the resolution without the participation of the PLO. The objective of the resolution was to organize relations between Israel and neighboring Arab countries. We demand our right to self-determination. The resolution does not touch on the core of the problem. We demand an international conference with the participation of the PLO.

[*Al-WATAN*] Bloody struggle took place in the PDRY. You have issued orders to regular Palestinian units in the YAR to move to the PDRY.

[Al-Wazir] We have regular units in the two Yemens. Most of these units are stationed in the YAR. When conflicts raged between the brothers in the PDRY we offered what we could offer to stop the bloodshed. At the request of the Soviet Union we sent some units to the PDRY to disengage the two warring parties. However, our presence did not please some parties there and for this reason we decided to withdraw.

[*Al-WATAN*] The Middle East is continuously subjected to disturbances and unrest. What do you expect in the coming days or weeks?

[Al-Wazir] First I hope that the brothers in the PDRY will overcome their differences and will stop shedding Arab blood. We expect the Zionist enemy to strike at our institutions in one of the Arab countries. It is anticipated that Lebanon, Jordan, Tunis, and the YAR will be targets for Israel.

BAHRAIN

Iranian Foreign Ministry Official Continues Visit

Conveys Message to Shaykh Al Khalifah

GF191014 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Manama, 19 Feb (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, has received a message from Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i dealing with current developments in the region.

The message was delivered today by Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani, director general of political affairs at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, during his meeting with the amir of Bahrain.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and acting prime minister; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, interior minister; and 'Abbas (Shakuhi), the Iranian charge d'affaires in Bahrain.

KUWAIT

Foreign Minister Returns from Visit to Baghdad

LD171943 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1926 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Feb (KUNA) — The acting prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir returned home this evening after a brief visit to Baghdad, during which he conferred with the Iraqi president, Sadam Husayn.

Discusses Baghdad, Damascus Visits

GF181125 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Feb (WAKH) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has reported that there is a development in the Syrian position toward Iraq.

The UAE newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* quoted Shaykh Sabah as saying: "We witnessed a tangible improvement in the Syrian position toward fraternal Iraq. But this position needs further efforts to motivate it in the direction of comprehensive solidarity." Shaykh Sabah said that he and Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister reviewed with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during their visit to Damascus the grave situation on the warfronts and the current Arab disintegration in order to work in the direction of restoring solidarity between the two fraternal countries at this terrible time.

The Kuwaiti minister declined to answer a question as to whether Syria presented any limited proposal to participate in ending the war. Yet he alluded to Iraq's readiness to respond to the Syrian role when he said: "We found President Saddam Husayn as always [a man who] extends his hand for peace." Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal visited Baghdad yesterday and held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on the activities of the Arab seven-member committee which pertain to the Iraqi-Iranian war.

On the other hand, sources close to Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal say that the two messages conveyed by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad to the Syrian president basically dealt with the dangers of continuing the war and the prospects of its expansion so that this requires the massing of Arab efforts to contain it and to attempt to find suitable solutions within the framework of a joint Arab effort that includes Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait together with the Arab League General Secretariat and the ICO.

Sudan's Military Council Deputy Chairman Arrives

LD171223 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0820 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Feb (KUNA) — This morning, Deputy Chairman of the Sudanese Transitional Military Council Lieutenant General Taj al-Din Abdullah Fadl arrived in Kuwait on an official visit which will last for several days. On arrival he was welcomed by the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Administration and Manpower Brigadier Mizid 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sani'; a number of senior officers at the Ministry of Defense; and the Sudanese ambassador to Kuwait and his staff.

Tomorrow Taj al-Din will have an audience with Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and will meet with senior officials.

Conveys Message to Amir

LD181100 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic
1000 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpts] The Amir of Kuwait received at 0930 today Lieutenant General Taj al-Din 'Abdallah Fadl, deputy chairman of the Transitional Military Council of the Fraternal Republic of Sudan, who conveyed a message to his highness from his brother, Lieutenant General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab.

Received by Al-Kharafi

LD182006 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1649 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Feb (KUNA) — Deputy chairman of the Sudanese Transitional Military Council Lieutenant General Taj al-Din 'Abdullah Fadl, who is on a visit to the country, has conferred with the Minister of Finance and Economy Jasim Mohammad al-Kharafi. During the meeting they discussed bilateral relations between the two countries, the IMF decision to freeze the loans granted to Sudan and other issues of mutual interest.

AL QABAS: Oil Minister Discusses Trip to USSR

GF141805 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 12 Feb 86 pp 1, 21

[Text] [Oil and Industry Minister] Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah told *AL-QABAS* following his return to Kuwait yesterday that the issue of exchanging Kuwaiti oil for Soviet weapons falls within the framework of future comprehensive cooperation between the two countries. He added that the two sides discussed the issue of exchanging oil for oil, petroleum products for petroleum products, and chemical products for chemical products. He added that in case there are further areas of cooperation, these will be considered.

The minister called his visit to the Soviet Union very successful. He added that the Soviets gave special importance to the visit, and that this was demonstrated in the lenghthy — over 1 and 1/2 hours — meeting which took place with the Soviet prime minister. During this meeting their discussion focused on economic relations between the two countries [word indistinct] asserting that as the political relations are excellent, the economic relations consequently should be just as good. Four areas of discussion were defined. They include technical cooperation in the Soviet Union or Kuwait because the Soviets are advanced in certain technological expertise. Kuwait has advanced expertise in certain areas. Therefore, it was agreed that discussions should focus on means to exchange expertise through the execution of projects in the Soviet Union and Kuwait.

Minister al-Khalifah indicated that the two sides aslo agreed to jointly implement cooperation between the Soviet Union and Kuwait in other countries and to consider the possibility of jointly executing these projects. He added that they also discussed trade relations, particularly pertaining to exchange of crude oil derivatives, petrochemicals, and refined oil products so that each country will provide agents of the other country with these products so that there will be large savings in transport costs.

The minister said that they discussed financial cooperation between the Kuwaiti and Soviet institutions. Meetings were set up between investment officials in the two countries.

On the international oil market, the minister said that the current situation affects the OPEC and non-OPEC countries. OPEC cannot unilaterally do anything to tackle this situation. The OPEC countries are developing countries which need financial resources. Without the cooperation of the non-OPEC members the prices cannot be defended. The minister said that sooner or later the non-OPEC countries will be ready to cooperate.

PDRY

Al-'Attas Opens Council of Ministers' Session

GF181552 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] The Council of Ministers held a regular meeting today under the chairmanship of Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the YSP Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers. Brother Engineer Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the YSP Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, attended the beginning of the meeting. The council observed a 1-minute silence in memory of the martyrs of the fascist coup attempted by plotter 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his clique.

Brother al-'Attas then congratulated the members of the council on the confidence vested in them by the party and state. He affirmed that the Council of Ministers, with its new formation under the chairmanship of Comrade Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, will rise to the level of the great confidence vested in it to carry out all assigned tasks. He said that the tasks of the new government following the incidents of 13 January are great and difficult. He said that as a result of this the government must exert efforts to eliminate the effects of the plot; to work to consolidate the unity of the party, the people, and institutions; to restore the tranquillity and confidence of the masses; to consolidate the relationship between the government, party, the state organs and the popular and social organizations; to overcome the previous negative practices; to bring the negligent to task; and to solve the accumulated problems and form central organs to combat these negative practices. He stressed the need to maintain law and discipline, not to allow any violations of them, to deal firmly with any violations, to devote special attention to supplies and services which concern the life of the masses, and to rationalize consumption and warn the people against extravagance and [word indistinct].

In the name of the members of the council and on his behalf Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man thanked the brother chairman and affirmed that the government will be up to the level of the responsibility and confidence vested in it and that it will work in a collective spirit and with a high national feeling of responsibility toward the homeland, the people, and party for implementing party resolutions and for consolidating our national democratic regime. He said that the government will give priority in its work to the elimination of the effects of the abortive coupist plot and the reconstruction of the various organs. He also thanked the brother chairman for his keenness to open the first meeting of the council.

After that the council proceeded to discuss the issues on its agenda. It passed a number of resolutions essential for financial control of the general budget for 1986 in implementation of the resolution of the 21st session of the Supreme People's Council and other resolutions on the projects included in the investment plans for 1986. The council took a number of measures on the investment plans in light of the policy adopted by the YSP Political Bureau, YSP Central Committee, and the Supreme People's Council. The council also discussed in detail a report on the urgent tasks necessary to confront what has resulted from the abortive coupist plot and to ensure a stable life for the families of those who have died or who have been detained in accordance with the effective regulations and laws. The council asked the ministers and chairmen of the central organs to determine the material and human losses inflicted on their ministries and departments subordinate to them as a result of the plot and to envisage ideas about ways to remedy and repair them and to present these ideas to the council (?later).

YSP Official, USSR Envoy Discuss Relations

GF181610 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, met at his office today Comrade Vladislav Zhukov, Soviet ambassador in Aden. They discussed relations between the two parties and countries. They also reviewed their versatile cooperation which serves the consolidation and deepening of the intimate relations between the two parties and friendly countries. They also discussed party cooperation and the importance of the participation of our delegation led by the brother secretary general in the 27th CPSU Congress.

Brother Salim Salih Muhammad expressed the satisfaction of our party and people with these steps, especially with regard to the return of the Soviet experts who are contributing with us to building our national economy and the continuation of work on the thermoelectrical plant, oil and minerals exploration projects, oil refining, and other vital fields.

At the end of this meeting the Soviet ambassador affirmed the keenness of the Soviet Union to bolster and consolidate bilateral relations in all fields.

YSP Official on Issues to TASS Correspondent in Aden

GF182010 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, has affirmed that the PDRY will continue to develop and bolster relations with the friendly Soviet Union at all levels and in every field. In a statement to the TASS correspondent in Aden, Brother Salim Salih Muhammad said: The friendship and cooperation ties between the governments and parties of our two countries, which are based on common goals and struggle against imperialism, are multisided and long-term relations. He emphasized that the constant, decisive, and sublime support offered by the Soviet Union to the PDRY people has contributed toward making our revolution successful and strengthening the progressive regime in the PDRY.

Brother Salim Salih Muhammad highly valued this support and expressed pride in our country's friendship with the friendly Soviet Union which has proven through experience to be loyal to all the Arab people. He emphasized that the PDRY will exert every effort to develop this friendship and cooperation and complement it according to our common interests. He reiterated that the PDRY will do all it can to maintain good relations with neighboring countries, especially the northern part of the homeland, Oman, and the Arab Gulf states.

He pointed out that the PDRY will constantly and decisively support the just struggle of the Arab Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights and establish their independent national state. He said: The PDRY will support the Syrian and Lebanese peoples who are struggling against Zionsit aggression. He denounced the aggressive trend of the United States and the Zionist entity against Libya and pointed out that this aggression reflects the results of the so-called strategic alliance between Washington and Tel Aviv and reveals its anti-Arab nature. He added: The PDRY feels that every Arab country, without exception, must participate in the struggle against the United States and the Zionist entity.

He said: Our external policies are fixed by our party conference, documents, and resolutions taken by the YSP Central Committee. These policies are characterized by a constant and long-term trend based on international cooperation, peaceful coexistence, neighborliness, mutual interests, and noninterference in the affairs of others. He said: We are exerting every effort to realize these principles in practice. In order to achieve success it is necessary for neighboring Arab countries, which have social regimes different than ours, also to abide by these principles.

Brother Salim Salih also talked about the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war. He said that this war absolutely does not serve the interests of the Iraqi or Iranian peoples, or the interests of other peoples in the region. It takes human lives that cannot be compensated for, inflicts grave damage on their economies, and diverts attention from the struggle against the primary and joint enemy — imperialism and Zionism. He affirmed the need to end this war and the stance of our country in helping to hold a peaceful dialogue between the two sides.

The brother assistant secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and secretary of the Central Committee talked about security in the Indian Ocean and pointed out that the PDRY, which is loyal to the principles of the Nonaligned Movement, calls for the removal of all military bases and naval fleets in its waters, explaining in this regard the great threat posed by the U.S. military base in Diego Garcia against all countries. He pointed out that the huge arsenals amassed by the Pentagon on this island keeps the countries of this region in a constant state of tension and obstructs their development, progress, and democracy. He reiterated the PDRY's support for Soviet initiatives on turning the Indian Ocean into a nuclear-free zone and into a region of peace and stability, free of military bases, fleets, and arsenals. Brother Salim Salih Muhammad concluded by saying that we are exerting every effort to reach this noble goal which is in line with the vital interests of all nations.

Agriculture Minister Discusses PDRY-USSR Projects

GF151818 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] An expanded meeting was held today for the workers in joint PDRY-Soviet projects, the workers of the general poultry board, Al-Hafr establishment, and the educational cadres in the cooperative institute.

At the beginning of the meeting, brother Ahmad 'Ali Muqbil, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, greeted the efforts that the workers and technicians working in the PDRY-Soviet projects are making in order to implement the programs of these vital projects, which are aimed at developing the agricultural sector, and the primary economic structures for the sake of the progress of the national economy through the execution of the development plans that are carried out by the joint PDRY-Soviet projects in Abyan, Lahij, and Hadramawt Governorates.

He affirmed that the conscious role in carrying out such projects profoundly indicates the PDRY-Soviet friendly relationship which grows and gathers strength through the victory of our party's and revolution's cause.

The minister of agriculture and agrarian reform also spoke of the dimensions of the abortive coupist attempt which was led by the schemer 'Ali Nasir and his treasonous clique. He refuted the dimensions and goals of this conspiracy. He called on the workers and technicians in the agricultural sector institutes to make efforts and cooperate in order to carry out future tasks to develop the agricultural sector.

The meeting was attended by Brother Najib Qudar, deputy minister of agriculture and agrarian reform; and the comrade economic adviser at the USSR Embassy in Aden.

Lebanese Sources Interview Officials on Coup

AL-NAHAR Al-'Attas Interview

NC181343 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 14 Feb 86 p 8

[Interview with PDRY President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas by correspondent Khayrallah Khayrallah at Al-'Attas' home in Aden — date not given]

[Text] [Khayrallah] What are you going to do both inside and outside the PDRY to get the country out of its present situation?

[Al-'Attas] The unsuccessful coup by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, naturally, has resulted in several problems for us. We will do our best to remove the effects of the coup from domestic society and the economy. We will do this by unifying the party and the people, and by healing all the wounds of families. Also, we have to cleanse the national economy and to repair the damage to our institutions. These must become fully operational again to overcome the period of inactivity and to fulfill the requirements for 1986, according to the proposed YSP and People's Assembly plans and programs.

[Khayrallah] What about relations with other countries?

[Al-'Attas] We are completely confident that our brothers and friends, once they understand the incidents surrounding 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's massacre of the party leaders and cadres, will stand by the PDRY people, and will condemn his crimes. These brothers and friends will also understand what took place in the PDRY. We want to stress that the stituation is stable. We are trying to maintain our foreign policy. We look forward to fraternal relations with the north, with the GCC countries, and with all Arab and foreign countries, particularly the USSR.

[Khayrallah] Did the coup affect ties with Libya?

[Al-'Attas] I do not think so. Our envoy explained the recent incidents to the Libyan leadership.

[Khayrallah] However, your personal envoy was received by Muhammad Zarruq Rajab, secretary of the People's General Congress in Libya, but Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received 'Ali Nasir Muhammad for four hours.

[Al-'Attas] Perhaps Al-Qadhdhafi wanted 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to brief him on the details of the massacre. Certainly, we believe that the Libyan leadership will support the people and the party, and not the individuals.

[Khayrallah] What about relations with Ethiopia?

[Al-'Attas] They are improving. 'Ali Nasir Muhammad is trying to mislead many of our brothers and friends. But the facts, which are completely the opposite of what he says, have become known to all. Since his claims are baseless, we believe that no one will support him.

[Khayrallah] Have ties with Ethiopia cooled?

[Al-'Attas] Yes, they have cooled, but we are certain that this is temporary; these ties will soon be back to normal.

AL-NAHAR Al-Bid Interview

NC181251 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 14 Feb 86 pp 1, 8

[Interview with YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid by *AL-NAHAR* correspondent Khayrallah Khayrallah, conducted at the former's residence in Aden — date not given]

[Excerpts][Khayrallah] How would you deal with the soldiers and civilians who are loyal to 'Ali Nasir Muhammad?

[Al-Bid] Those soldiers and civilians who took part in the horrible crimes perpetrated will be dealt with in accordance with the law, in keeping with established practices, and in line with the available evidence. As for the other supporters of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad who were outside the country or who did not take part (in the action), we shall be forgiving and we will reeducate them. Those who did not participate and want to be accepted again will find the door open. Indeed, we call on all who were deceived and all who took sides to return to the fold. We will treat them with lenience. Only the criminals will be brought to justice and this will be done in broad daylight.

[Khayrallah] But, there is much talk inside and outside Aden about revenge. Is this actually taking place?

[Al-Bid] I do not think so. As far as I know, there has been a great deal of self-restraint. We do not believe in retaliation. Talk about vengeance is meant as a smokescreen for the acts perpetrated by 'Ali Nasir and his clique.

[Khayrallah] It is being said that there is a large number of detainees. Can you give me a figure?

[Al-Bid] I have no exact figure on the number of detainees. The Political Bureau has ordered several groups released.

[Khayrallah] How many have been released so far?

[Al-Bid] So far, 1063 detainees have been freed.

[Khayrallah] Do you think the party will be able to restore internal unity after all that has happened?

[Al-Bid] The party will examine past experience. Actually, we had already agreed to do it even at the time of 'Ali Nasir. We wanted to take stock before the conference (the Third YSP Conference held in October 1985). We wanted to avoid repeating mistakes. Our party, which withstood the plot, has proven its cohesion under duress. What happened is an indication that the party's integrity and purity will be further enhanced and protected. We shall do our best to consolidate the party's unity as well as the home front.

[Khayrallah] How is it that you speak of party unity while whole areas are not represented in the new YSP leadership?

[Al-Bid] We are not a parliament. 'Ali Nasir used to introduce each one of us to another of his regions. [as published] He was trying to resuscitate and to entrench tribal affiliations. We are a party, not a parliament.

[Khayrallah] Have you received assurance from the north that there will be no interference in PDRY internal affairs and that the activities of hostile forces will be curbed?

[Al-Bid] We believe that our brothers in the north are eager to avoid a recurrence of the events of 1972 and 1979 (military confrontation between the two countries).

Our shared commitment to the normalization of ties and to the reactivation of the unity committees will be instrumental in restoring our relations. We do not think that the north will create any tension or problems for us. Our position is clear: We remain committed to improving relations with the north; we want to build on our achievements.

Our party, our policy, and our dedication to improved relations with the north are unchanging.

[Khayrallah] Are there actual contacts between the southern and the northern parts of Yemen?

[Al-Bid] We have tried to get in touch with the government in the north and at present are doing so through its envoy to the United Nations. We are telling them that contacts could be easier from here (Aden).

[Khayrallah] Do you have contacts with Saudi Arabia?

[Al-Bid] There are none as yet, through no fault on our part.

[Khayrallah] Are Soviet experts beginning to return?

[Al-Bid] Yes, the Soviet Union has begun to send back its experts. We are working to ensure that all return. More of them, particularly those who work in the economic field, will return within the next few days.

[Khayrallah] It is being said that your country is a Soviet base!

[Al-Bid] We have no Soviet bases. The USSR is a friend. Our relations are increasing steadily.

AL-SAFIR Salih Muhammad Interview

NC181159 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic
15 Feb 86 pp 1,10

[Interview with Salim Salih Muhammad, YSP assistant secretary general, by *AL-SAFIR* correspondent 'Abd al-Sattar al-Laz in Aden — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Laz] There has been much talk about the role of neighboring countries in PDRY events. I have heard, for example, that you seized a quantity of Saudi riyals which were at the disposal of one of the supporters of 'Ali Nasir in Aden. How true is this talk?

[Muhammad] The planning and execution of the operation, the persons who recently returned to the country from camps in neighboring countries and who participated in the fighting, the way things were organized, and the Western weapons that were confiscated, all this confirms that this operation was amazingly large by local standards.

We are now investigating to find out who were involved in financing, planning, and executing this operation.

[Al-Laz] Does this mean that you have information in this regard?

[Muhammad] Yes.

[Al-Laz] Has the YAR anything to do with this?

[Muhammad] We are not accusing anyone. However, we will continue the investigations, particularly with those who were arrested. We will announce the results so that the public, both home and abroad, may learn the truth.

[Al-Laz] Did you ever feel during the events that there were invasion plans?

[Muhammad] Certainly. Intentions to interfere in our affairs continue to exist. However, we ask others not to intervene. We respect the sovereignty and freedom of others and refuse to interfere in their affairs; we expect them to reciprocate and respect our sovereignty and independence. We want to coexist with them on the basis of good neighborliness and mutual benefit. We believe that wars are destructive and will only cause losses and obstruct progress.

Therefore, we sincerely say that we favor a stable situation in the area and coexistence with its various regimes. This policy would enable our people to make progress, achieve development, and live in peace.

[Al-Laz] It has been reported that you received guarantees from certain neighboring states that they would not interfere in your affairs, either directly or through a third party. How true are such reports?

[Muhammad] The efforts of Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in this regard convince us that he certainly wishes to spare Yemen any new wars. Furthermore, the communique that we issued jointly with Oman demonstrates that the two sides want to maintain normal relations.

Regarding our brothers in Saudi Arabia, we also hope that relations with them will remain normal, as they are built on the same foundations. For our part, we reiterate to all our brothers and neighbors whether in the peninsula or in other Arab areas that our policy is the same peaceful policy that we have made strenuous efforts to establish. We dispatched envoys to several Arab countries to convey our assurances in this regard. We would like to express our thanks to our Algerian, Libyan, Syrian, Kuwaiti, and Omani brothers for their positions, on the basis of which we will continue to cooperate with them.

AL-SIYASAH Interviews YSP Official on Soviet Role

GF161700 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic
15 Feb 86 pp 11, 22

[Interview with Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the YSP, by *AL-SIYASAH* correspondent Nabil Ghazzawi in Aden — date not given]

[Excerpts][Nabil Ghazzawi] It has been said that the 13 January events were concluded in your favor by the Soviet forces. In other words, that these forces directly interfered in the PDRY's internal affairs and that without the intervention of these forces you would not have succeeded. What is your explanation and reply to this?

[Salim Salih Muhammad] Arab media and public opinion sometimes fall victim to leaks by intelligence circles, particularly U.S. intelligence. Those who have followed up the situation and developments that took place, know that the Soviet stance from the beginning was not to intervene in the PDRY's internal affairs and this is actually what the Soviets practiced. From the first minutes, the U.S. stance, as well as that of some countries supporting the U.S. stance, was clear. To this minute the U.S. still persists in its stance despite our victory and the abortion of the plot. The U.S. hands are clear and present, just like in the planning and financing of a big criminal plot.

After this failure, what do you expect the Americans to say. They will certainly blame the Soviet Union. I can say that the Soviet Union stood by us in halting any foreign intervention. Our workers, farmers, soldiers, and party members were the ones who aborted this conspiracy, overcame it, settled it, and defended the sovereignty of the homeland and its borders, security, and safety.

[Ghazzawi] Foreign media says that the newly elected administration in the PDRY carries the red banner and will further consolidate communism in the region. What is your answer to this?

[Muhammad] If loyalty to the homeland and defending it and at the same time standing against such barbaric acts and the terrorism that 'Ali Nasir Muhammad used to personally carry out is considered an extremist act, then let the others judge us. Concerning the question of communism, it is still far away and does not scare anybody. That is, we in our country are trying to carry out national and democratic tasks at the same time, and might need centuries perhaps to reach the supreme stage of communism. Therefore, there is no need for such fear. We are keen for the progress and development of our people. For this reason we will make all the necessary sacrifices, including the great sacrifices in which we lost our dearest, best, and noblest leaders for these national and internationalist goals. If this is described as extremism, then let the others judge us. We have been asked this question before by American correspondents and we told them that we are very keen for the construction, development, and happiness of our homeland.

At the same time, we also believe in the right of others to choose the trend they want and we will continue to respect the decisions of others. At the same time, want others to respect ours. The question of extremism is part of the propaganda which is aimed at isolating us and presenting a dark picture of us.

Certainly, we can say that nothing has changed in the PDRY — the party is the same and our charters are the same. Our charters are not secret and have been published. We are a small nation that wants to construct its life. We defend our freedom and honor with pride. For this freedom and honor we did not kneel or surrender, but continued to pride ourselves and our freedom and the honor of our people. We will continue to be proud and will deal with others as they deal with us. Whoever respects our freedom and sovereignty, or whoever opposes us will receive an appropriate response. Since independence and even before it, these circles have spread rumors and tried to present the situation as unstable. They constantly confront us. Despite this, the many plots and wagers against us have failed and victory has been achieved by our people — and such a victory is hard to get rid of. Therefore, others should understand this fact and respect the independence, progress, and development of our people.

[Ghazzawi] Who motivated 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to carry out the events of 13 January?

[Muhammad] Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad and Ahmad Musa'id Husayn were the ones who involved him in this operation and made him responsible for it. Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad used to tell him: You must liquidate those who oppose you. You must be a strong man. Do not allow these opinions to surface; do not allow a dialogue. You must liquidate them and then go to Abyan and at 1530 broadcast a statement and then return to Aden to broadcast a statement. [sentence as published] We understand that the CIA financed the conspiracy. I believe that you have seen some special types of weapons. We found a large number of arms in Abyan with Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad and Farhan 'Alawi Husayn, deputy minister of state security. These weapons were used for the first time. These arms include machineguns with silencers and weapons of highly destructive power made in the West. There are some Israeli machineguns. I do not know how they arrived here. You may come and see for yourself.

[Ghazzawi] Where were the Israeli and U.S. machineguns found?

[Muhammad] They were found in the village of Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad, and in the house of Farhan. He had foreign contacts with some of the elements which participated in the fighting. They used tactics that differed from army and militia training, which indicates that they were trained by foreign elements. This shows the size of the conspiracy and that it was systematically planned and carried out. It also shows the deceptive means which were used, the deceptive media campaigns, and the high degree of reporting on the events. Some of our friends became convinced that events were too big to be planned from inside, and information will prove that foreign hands were involved in this plot. These hands wanted to explode the situation not only in the PDRY but the entire Arab region.

One of our conflicts with 'Ali Nasir was the attitude of Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad who tried to make Abyan Governorate a state within the PDRY, and establish land borders and sea ports. He used to import and export freely. He established an international communication network unknown to anyone. He also purchased weapons. We consider this a very dangerous issue which undermined the security of the PDRY and the security of neighboring countries. This matter turned Abyan Governorate into a nucleous for forming a state — a third Yemen state. We realized this and tried to stop it. We tried to resist it through the party in the past, and during the first moments of the fighting when he tried to carry out this conspiracy. We can say that we have overcome this problem.

[Ghazzawi] You pointed out that Israeli weapons were confiscated. What types of weapons? Did any groups from outside of Yemen participate in the fighting?

[Muhammad] Certainly, Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad had conspicuous relations and we used to follow up his external activities. The martyrs' square in Abyan is a complex consisting of a restaurant, swimming pool, and a park. Numerous and various foreigners including Lebanese nationals, who do not represent the nationalist movement at all, and various other West European nationalities, even Filipinos and nationals from Southeast Asia, were brought in under the cover of working at the complex. These people used to bring in arms under cover. They used to import everything, such as cars, furniture, perfumes, and arms under this cover and they sold some of them in the country, and the rest on the borders with the neighboring countries, avoiding taxes and violating the law. This threatened the basic structure of the regime. Our country used to comprise 23 amirates and sultanates which we eventually united under the central regime of the PDRY. There was a danger that the regime would disintegrate and each governorate would claim autonomy, thus ending the central regime. This is what Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad actually attempted. There is another important issue that should be made known. In 1983 we tried to open the doors to those who wanted to return and were in the camps outside of our country and which were hostile to us. We said that we should open a new page with them. However, Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad allowed them to return in full strength. More dangerous than that was that he armed them and returned them to civil and military establishments. It is these elements that played a basic role in the fighting and practiced their hatred against unarmed citizens and civil and military cadres.

[Ghazzawi] What was the role of the Palestinians during the events in the PDRY with regard to participation in the cease-fire between the two sides?

[Muhammad] As a matter of fact, the Palestinian brethren did not participate in the fighting at all, even though there were some outside elements who did. We are aware of the Palestinian situation and of the complications on the Palestinian arena. We are also aware that there are elements who have connections with Mossad and who do not represent the Palestinian people, the PLO, or factions of the Palestinian resistance.

The situation in the first moments was complicated and confusing following the mobilization which was carried out by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his groups. For years he claimed he was a victim and he was being attacked and that he is a good and progressive man and so forth.

This was the game that he used to play. He used to practice one policy with the right and another with the left. He believed that he could succeed.

They succeeded in convincing some brothers that 'Ali Nasir was telling the truth and that there was an attack against the regime in the PDRY. We forgive many of the brothers for their stances in the initial moments, because after the situation became clear they realized the truth of what was going on and their responses were positive. We can say that all the brothers and friends have the same stance regarding the denunciation of any foreign intervention or assault against the PDRY's sovereignty and independence.

We are confident that in the future we will have better relations with our Palestinian brothers and that our country will support the unity of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of our Arab Palestinian people and efforts to restore their rights and establish their independent state on their territories.

We will establish better relations with the Arab national liberation movements and our brothers in the Arab countries, whether in the Arabian Peninsula, the Gulf, or the Arab region.

We will also continue our policy toward friendly countries and other countries which respect our sovereignty and independence. We will continue our policy on this basis whatever the size of the Western propaganda campaign or efforts to actually weaken our people's unity and to strike at and end this regime.

Justice Minister Carries Messages to Arab Leaders

GF181740 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Wasi' Sallam, minister of justice and awqaf, left Aden at noon today for a number of fraternal Arab countries carrying with him wirtten messages from brother Engineer Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the YSP Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, to the kings and presidents of these countries.

In a statement to ANA, the brother minister said that the messages deal with relations between our country and these countries and brief the kings and presidents on the painful bloody incidents witnessed by our country recently as a result of the vile plot led by plotter 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his clique.

He was seen off at the airport by Brothers Dr Ja'far Shawtaf, deputy minister of justice and awqaf; and Ahmad 'Umar Ba Matras, deputy chairman of the Republic's Supreme Court.

QATAR

Foreign Minister Receives Iranian Official

GF181122 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic
1030 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Today His Excellency Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs, met in his office at the ministry with Mr Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani, political director general of political affairs for Arab and African countries at the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations and the current developments in the region. The meeting was attended by Seyyed Baqer Sakha'i, Iranian ambassador in Doha.

Message Conveyed to Amir

GF181120 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic
1030 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani has received a verbal message from his excellency Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i. The message was conveyed by Mr Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani, political director general of political affairs for Arab and African countries at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, today during his meeting with the amir in his office at Doha Palace.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Seyyed Baqer Sakha'i, Iranian ambassador in Doha.

SAUDI ARABIA

Foreign Minister Returns from Iraq, Syria

GF181127 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Riyadh, 18 Feb (SPA) — Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal returned to Riyadh today from Baghdad after concluding two working visits to Iraq and Syria lasting 3 days.

During these visists His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal held talks with senior officials in the two countries pertaining to the recent developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war in particular and the developments of the situation in the Arab region.

Mubarak Comments On Palestinian-Jordanian Talks

NC181339 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has said that Egypt is playing a conciliatory role to bring the view of the PLO and Jordan closer together and set the stage for movement toward peace.

President Mubarak was speaking to newsmen following his talks with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat today. He stated: We are helping the PLO and Jordan to reconcile their views.

President Mubarak described Jordan as a major participant in the peace process, along with the PLO. He added that consultations are still going on between Jordan and the PLO and that communication between these two sides has not been broken off. He also voiced the belief that the PLO has opted for peaceful settlement.

President Mubarak noted that Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, was dispatched to Jordan yesterday.

He said that Dr al-Baz met with King Husayn and with Jordanian officials to learn their latest thoughts on the peace process so that Egypt could relay them to Yasir 'Arafat. The objective, Mubarak said, is to find a way to further the peace process and to reach an understanding between the PLO and Jordan in keeping with the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. This understanding would make it easier to hold the international conference, he added.

According to President Mubarak the talks between Jordan and the PLO are still continuing and renewed contact between the PLO and King Husayn may take place within the coming 2 days.

President Mubarak expressed the hope that the two sides would reach an agreement. He said: We expect them, God willing, to find a way or a formula to deal with the PLO's approval of Resolution 242.

The president explained that he had sent Dr al-Baz to meet with King Husayn because Jordan was a major party to the Middle East issue.

The president said that Al-Baz conveyed to King Husayn suggestions that could perhaps lead to a formula for dealing with the UN Security Council resolutions.

Concerning the three formulas that Egypt received from the PLO, President Mubarak was asked if they are the same formulas 'Arafat showed to Jordanian officials, or if they had been amended. He said: Egypt has not received the three formulas. The only formulas are those the PLO presented to Jordan.

President Mubarak asserted that the efforts in which Egypt is currently engaged are designed to help both sides. It is for the PLO and Jordan to reach a satisfactory formula for submission to the international conference.

The President was also asked whether the Egyptian and Palestinian positions are identical, a conclusion that Yasir 'Arafat's statements to newsmen would seem to indicate. President Mubarak said: The question is not whether our positions are identical. We are just trying to bring the two sides to agreement on a common position.

Replying to a question on the U.S. response to the three PLO formulas, President Mubarak said: The talks are continuing. I cannot talk about something definite now because the issue is not over yet.

Regarding reports that there is a problem between the PLO and Jordan and that is the reason why Dr Usamah al-Baz was sent to mediate, the president reacted by saying: There is no problem in the real sense of the word, but it is possible that there are some unclear matters between them. He added: By listening to the views of both parties, we are trying to help them reach a formula that could be the starting point for the international conference.

Asked whether the three formulas link Resolution 242 to the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, President Mubarak replied: The three formulas given to Jordan include the linkage between Security Council Resolution 242 and the Palestinian people's rights within the context of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, which stipulates the establishment of a confederation with Jordan.

President Mubarak dismissed reports that Egypt's stand is identical to the PLO's and against Jordan, saying these were unwarranted because Egypt has not special interest in creating a problem between Jordan and the PLO. The president added: We are looking for the public interest and that is for the two parties to agree on a formula that could advance the peace process.

Asked how optimistic he was about reaching this formula, President Mubarak said: It is possible. It is possible to reach a formula, but these weighty matters require more consultation and take a long time.

Asked if Dr Usamah al-Baz's visit to Amman yesterday had had positive results, President Mubarak asserted: Dr Usamah al-Baz went to Jordan to deliver my message to the Jordanian King and to discuss any new developmets so that with 'Arafat's cooperation an acceptable formula may be reached.

Replying to a question on whether the United States has understanding for the linkage between Security Council Resolution 242 and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, particularly following the State Department's retraction, President Mubarak said: We do not want to talk about understanding or lack of understanding. What is important is that we first agree with each other and then we will see what the U.S. position is.

A foreign correspondent asked him further on the three formulas and the president remarked: We were only told about these three formulas, which were given to the Jordanian king. Jordan conveyed them to the United States.

Asked whether he will meet with Yasir 'Arafat again, President Mubarak said: 'Arafat will leave Egypt within 1 or 2 days. I do not know now where he will go. I believe that I will see him again in an effort to help him reach a solution regarding the formula on the recognition of Security Council Resolution 242.

The talks between President Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat lasted 90 minutes.

'Arafat Leaves Cairo

NC181805 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo this evening following a 6-day visit to Egypt, during which he held important discussions with President Husni Mubarak. He also had talks with Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi and Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The discussions centered on current developments in the Palestinian issue, the outcome of the recent Jordanian-Palestinian talks in Amman, and future moves vis-a-vis the Palestinian cause.

Sudanese Leader Receives Mubarak Message on Chad

NC171620 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Feb (MENA) — General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab, chairman of Sudan's Transitional Military Council, has received an oral message from President Husni Mubarak. The message deals with bilateral relations and the situation in neighboring countries, with special emphasis on Chad. This was revealed by Ambassador Husayn 'Abbas Musharaffah, who delivered the message to Siwar al-Dhahab during a meeting today in Khartoum.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Taha Ibrahim Ayyun met with the Egyptian envoy earlier today. They discussed current conditions in the region and bilateral ties.

3-Day Airlift Resupplies Iraq With Weapons

GF181818 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 17 Feb 86 pp 1, 8

[Text] Cairo — Egypt has supplied Iraq with large amounts of military equipment. It established a 3-day aerial link last Tuesday to supply Iraq with arms. Two giant C-130 air transports were flown each day. The arms are of both Eastern and Western origin. The Egyptian weapons that arrived in Iraq recently are 10-times greater than those that Egypt had supplied to Iraq during the past 3 months and included weapons of high destructive power which Iraq had requested.

AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the Egyptian weapons sent to Iraq include swingfire antitank missiles; RPG-4 and RPG-7 antitank shells; field artillery shells; bombs, engines for MEE-8 helicopters [as published]; and engines for some Eastern vehicles that are maintained and overhauled in Egyptian military factories.

Official sources have affirmed to *AL-ITTIHAD* that Egypt did not send any forces or military experts or technicians to Iraq.

AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the Egyptian equipment that is being sent to Iraq is not affecting its own military arsenal, since it is compensating for this loss by obtaining military equipment from various sources.

Agriculture Minister Wali Returns From Iraq

NC182019 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture, returned to Cairo this evening after a 1-day visit to Baghdad. During his stay, he delivered a message from President Mubarak to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Brotherhood Leader Says Group to Form Political Party

GF141128 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0921 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Feb (WAKH) — 'Umar al-Tilmisani, general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood Group in Egypt, has stated that the group will set up a political party for the first time so that it can begin political action through so-called "legitimate channels."

In a statement published today in the UAE newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD*, Al-Tilmisani said the group has completed the party program that will be announced and that it will present a request to the government to set up the party instead of joining the Al-Wafd party or any other party. He added: We have started the necessary measures that precede the formation of a party. These measures are recommendation by 20 members of the People's Assembly, the releasing of the names to the press, and responding to any objection that may ensue.

'Umar al-Tilmisani pointed out that the Muslim Brotherhood Group was forced to the idea of forming a party after all doors were closed to it that would enable it to propose its views in the People's Assembly and because the formation of a political party is the only means to enter elections and then the assembly. He noted that the new party will present a new form of political dialogue that is not available at present.

Further Reportage on Visit By Egypt's Wali

Received by Ramadan

JN181456 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Feb (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command, has met with Egyptian NDP Secretary General Dr Yusuf Wali. During the meeting, they affirmed the importance of the meetings between the two countries in the service of national and pan-Arab causes.

Dr Yusuf Wali affirmed the Egyptian NDP's stand alongside Iraq in its honorable defense against the new Iranian aggression which is aimed at the Arab nation's sovereignty. He condemned the Khomeyniite clique's expansionist schemes against Arab territory, as well as its rejection of all the calls for peace aimed at ending the Iranian aggression against Iraq.

Concludes Visit, Departs

JN181552 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Feb (INA) — Dr Yusuf Wali, Egyptian deputy prime minister and NDP secretary general, and his accompanying delegation left Baghdad for Cairo today at the end of an official visit to Iraq. In a predeparture statement to INA, Dr Wali said that he met with President Saddam Husayn, to whom he conveyed Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's greetings and Egypt's support for Iraq in the recent Iranian aggression.

Dr Wali added: As has always been the case, Iraq will teach the Iranian aggressors a new lesson as it has in previous battles. He added that the NDP will initiate a dialogue with the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party on common issues to coordinate stands and exchange visits between the two parties.

The Egyptian minister was seen off by Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister; the deputy chief of staff of the Armed Forces; and other officials.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Leaves Baghdad 17 Feb

JN172115 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2047 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Feb (INA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Baghdad tonight following a short visit to Iraq. He was seen off by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information and acting foreign minister; Nuri Isma'il al-Wayyis, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary; and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Baghdad.

Saudi Foreign Minister Leaves Baghdad 18 Feb

JN181021 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 18 feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Feb (INA) — Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sau'd al-Faysal left Baghdad today after a brief visit to Iraq. Last night, Prince Sa'ud and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with President Saddam Husayn.

INA Reports Yasir 'Arafat's Arrival in Baghdad

JN191020 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Feb (INA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived here at [time indistinct] on a visit to Iraq.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iran

Raid on Iranian Naval Base Reported

GF191208 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1135 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. By God, we will continue to chase them and destroy their dens over their heads, and eradicate their rotten presence at all times and wherever they may be.

O glorious Iraqis. Your eagles, together with their comrades at arms in our land and naval forces, have buried the aggressors in heaps. They buried with them their malicious dreams. The eagles continue to chase the enemy as far as his most important targets, in addition to their daily harvest of the aggressors' necks.

At 1315 [1015 GMT] today, the destructive lightning bolts among our valiant planes carried out a surprise and destructive raid on the advance headquarters of the naval forces in (Bara) Island. From this headquarters the enemy directs his naval operations and sends forth his unsuccessful units, and at this place numbers of the enemy's naval units dock.

Our shells pounded this center and devastated it over those who were inside it, and turned it into fire-consumed rabble.

The eagles' shells also hit the enemies' naval units which were present at the location and spread destruction among them.

After our eagles carried out this duty with their usual courage and well-known ability, they returned safely with their planes to the homeland. May you continue to carry out every honorable act, O loyal eagles.

O villainous Khomeynites, nothing will protect you now from God's will.

[Issued] on 19 February 1986.

Enemy Communications Plane Destroyed

GF191241 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1223 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Excerpt] A military spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. While one of our planes was chasing the Khomeyniites in (Bahbahan) area 350 kilometers inside Iranian territory it discovered a huge enemy communications plane of the C-130 type that performs tasks similar to those of known AWACS plane as it carries similar communications equipment. Our plane directed its missiles which do not miss its target at it and turned it into splinters scattered in the air and returned to its base safely with God's protection.

Navy Dominates North Gulf

JN191244 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Umm Qasr, 19 Feb (INA) — An Iraqi naval commander has said that the Iraqi naval force is completely dominating the operational areas and the northern part of the Arab Gulf. Staff Captain Hamid Laftah Hawwaz, commander of the naval unit of Umm Qasr has challenged the Iranians to show any presence or role in the operational area or north of the Arab Gulf. He told the INA mission that the Iraqi naval force has waged a series of fierce battles with the enemy since the beginning of the recent aggression during which it sunk a number of Iranian ships and boats and effectively supported the Iraqi land forces which are tightening their siege around the Iranian aggressors.

Planes Raid Ganaveh, Military Camps

JN191145 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1120 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Since this morning, our heroic Air Force has been continuing its well-known strikes on the heads of the enemies, dismembering their remnants and destroying their vital installations, equipment, and weapons. Our Air Force men have accomplished the following:

1. At 0945 [0645 GMT] today, a devastating air strike was directed at the Khaneh military camp. Our eagles destroyed the camp's installations, wiped out the Khomeyniite remnants there, and set their ammunition and armament depots ablaze.

2. At 0949 today, our valiant eagles carried out a successful strike against the Jaldian military camp, inflicting massive losses on enemy constructions, equipment, and men, and leaving the enemy's ammunition and armament depots in flames.

3. At 1313 today, our planes carried out a new raid against the Ganaveh oil pipeline intersection, pounding their targets and setting them ablaze.

After carrying out all these missions, our Air Force eagles returned to their bases safe and triumphant, carrying news of victory to their great people.

Glory to you, O brave eagles. You have fulfilled your promise. You are the arm of Iraq, which reaches out to beat our enemies wherever they are.

[Dated] 19 February, 1986

New Drives Prepared at Al-Faw

JN190735 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Feb 86

[By Usamah al-Salihi]

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Feb (INA) — As the Iraqi forces escalate their destructive strikes at the besieged Iranian troops on the Al-Faw front, the Iraqis are consolidating their new positions in preparation for new drives. Having crushed a series of Iranian attacks yesterday, the three Iraqi columns are advancing toward their targets with accuracy and coordination in order to tighten the siege around the Iranian forces from all sides.

Military sources here say that the current military efforts are aimed at directing a crushing, crippling, final blow against the Iranians in the positions they acquired after their new aggression. In his remarks to the newspaper *AL-THAWRAH*, Brigadier General 'Ali Jasim al-Hayyani, commander of the Muhammad al-Qasim Forces of the central column, gives a graphic picture of yesterday's battles when the Iranian command dispatched several brigades to attack the Iraqi columns, particularly the central column. The attack began at 2230 the previous night and was crushed by the Iraqi forces 1 hour after it began following fierce fighting. The Iranian forces returned again with large formations but the Iraqi forces fought them with immense strength from 0100 until 0400.

The Iraqi commander affirms that the Iranian losses were very grave, exceeding 1,200 dead and many more wounded and captured. The Iranians also lost weapons and engineering equipment. Iraqi television showed films of the massive Iranian losses and piles of dead Iranians. The battles show that the Iraqis were able to liberate new territory, which was an important defensive site for the Iranians along the coast and which will make it easy for the Iraqi forces to continue their drive in this straegic area.

The Iraqi naval forces are playing an effective role in supporting Iraqi units on the land, which are advancing to destroy the Iranian defenses and troop concentrations inside Iran as well as boats and supply ships north of the Arab Gulf.

As the weather improved today after yesterday's rain, the Iraqi Air Force began massive raids on advanced Iranian units and backup forces. Over the past days of fighting, the Iraqi pilots carried out 3,803 combat missions. They have now started dropping thousands of tons of explosives on Iranian forces, engineering efforts, and supply lines deep inside Iran.

While affirming its military power on the battlefield, Iraq has placed the international community represented by the United Nations before its responsibilities with the aim of ending the war, affirming UN responsibility as stipulated in the UN Charter. The UN Security Council has started its discussion of the Iranian aggression. By asking the international community to take a firm stand toward the repeated Iranian aggression, Iraq does not act from a position of weakness but from a position of strength, supported by international conventions and law. The United Nations and the Security Council are required to take a clear stand on this aggression, which aims at occupying the territory of a UN member state. Unless such a stand is taken, Iraq will not be committed to any action that does not aim at stopping the war and the 6-year aggression.

As the UN Security Council began its discussions, an Iraqi military spokesman said: We have absorbed the enemy offensive. We have limited enemy movement and paralyzed its combat ability.

We have begun to dislodge the enemy from its positions, inflicting on it unprecedented losses in the history of its aggression on Iraq with the result that it started retreating and withdrawing. We will soon bring news of decisive victory to the Iraqi people.

Iranian Appeals for Help Heard

JN171127 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1055 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Basra, 17 Feb (INA) — An INA mission in the Al-Faw operational area says that it heard appeals for urgent reinforcements by the besieged Iranian forces.

The mission said that Iraqi monitoring equipment recorded voice messages by Iranian soldiers informing their command that "The enemy is closing in on us." The command of one of Iran's formations urged replacing ambulance drivers because they are extremely exhausted after transferring great numbers of dead and wounded. The reply to this message was: "We have no more ambulances or drivers. There is no way to reach you because the Abadan-Bushehr road has been cut off."

A cable from an Iranian formation monitored by Iraqi devices said: "Our forces have collapsed and are destroyed. We face a disaster for which we have no solution. If we remain like this until nightfall, we will all perish. Please inform the big father to reach us as soon as possible."

Complaining that all his men had been killed, another officer says in his cable: "We need fighters, even if they are civilians. Send us reinforcements soonest."

A commander of another formation repeats appeals to his command saying: "The enemy is advancing determinedly toward us and we cannot resist it. All our boats have been sunk by the enemy."

This morning, the Iraqi assistant chief of staff said that the Iranian forces that crossed Shatt al-'Arab waterway can either surrender or perish.

Iran Reportedly Massing Troops

HK190514 Hong Kong AFP in English 0355 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Basra, Iraq, Feb 19 (afp) — Iran is massing troops for what could be a widespread new drive agaipst Iraq, an Iraqi general said Tuesday night.

General Maher Abdel Rashid [name as received], commander of Iraq's third army, based northeast of here on the central front, told a news conference that the Iranian buildup was in the Khorramshar [place name as received] region and on the west bank of the Shatt al-'Arab waterway near the southeastern Iraqi port of Al-Faw. Iranian forces seized control of Al-Faw at the start of their latest offensive which began on February 9 when they stormed across Shatt al-'Arab, Iraq's narrow outlet to the Gulf.

Gen Rashid also said that his troops controlled 90 percent of the man-made Majnun [place name as received] Islands in the Hawiza [place name as received] Marhes further north, having repulsed an Iranian offensive there a week earlier. He said 8,000 Iranians died in the fighting.

Journalists who were brought from Baghdad to Basra earlier Tuesday could hear the sound of shelling some 50 kms (30 miles) southeast of the city in the Al-Faw area, the scene of bloody fighting since the start of the latest Iranian drive in the five-year-old war. On the way here from the Iraqi capital they saw long columns of Iraqi military vehicles carrying tanks and heading towards the front.

Iraq said Tuesday that its forces were advancing in a three-pronged attack on Iranian troops occupying the west bank of Shatt al-'Arab.

'Great Number' of Troops Captured

JN181020 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0938 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 18 Feb (INA) — The Iraqi forces captured a great number of Iranian troops at dawn today. Radio Baghdad interviewed these POW's who affirmed that the Iraqi planes and artillery are pursuing the Iranians everywhere. The radio said that groups of these POW's are being evacuated to the rear one after the other.

Communiques Issued on War Activities

No 2,120

JN171800 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Communique No 2,120 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 17 Feburary 1986]

[Excerpt] The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. Our brave columns in the VII Army Corps sector today continued their advance toward their fixed targets, supported by our heroic Air Force, our brave artillery men, the valiant helicopter gunship cavaliers, and the heroes of our powerful missile force. The northern column under the supervision of Staff Major General Rashshash Siyad Daghir and under the command of Staff Brigadier General Ahmad Ibrahim Hammash advanced 500 meters. This is the same distance lost in yesterday's fighting. The enemy sustained massive losses in defensive and offensive battles.

The central column under the supervision of Staff Lieutenant General Sa'di Tu'mah al-Juburi and under the command of Staff Brigadier General 'Ali Jasim al-Hayyani advanced 600 meters today, inflicting massive losses on enemy personnel and equipment.

The southern coastal column under the supervision of Staff Lieutenant General Hisham Sabah al-Fakhri and under the command of Staff Brigadier General Natiq Jasim continued its advance toward its targets with complte success, crushing enemy remnants and forcing the rest to retreat. The enemy forces opposite this column were completely destroyed or forced to flee and withdraw in disarray. An area 2 kilometers deep was liberated along this axis today.

The results of the battles waged at this front both yesterday and today affirm that the enemy has lost the initiative and is fighting a battle of retreat opposite our forces. As time passes the area in which the enemy is present becomes smaller, the grip imposed on it gets tighter, and further heavy losses are inflicted on its forces. This will be the case until the last inch is purged of its filth, with the help of God and the determination of zealous, loyal men.

2. Our gigantic Air Force has built and is building a splendid glory which generations will view with pride. History will record that eagles of the air and all our ground and sea fighters have opened the doors of freedom and foiled all the base attempts of Iraq's enemies. Last night and today our aircraft continued their fatal raids on enemy forces in their positions and concentrations, harvesting the heads of the Khomeyniites, destroying their equipment, and giving effective support to our ground forces' God-supported advance. Our planes carried out 363 combat missions, after which the eagles returned safely to base.

In addition to these combat missions, our Air Force achieved the following:

a. The destruction of the Ra's Abadan bridge.

b. The destruction of the Abadan-Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr] bridge.

c. The destruction of the bridge linking the roads of Sheykh Budayr and Ahvaz in the City of Abadan.

d. The destruction of the iron bridge in the abovementioned area in Abadan.

e. The destruction of the Chuyebdeh bridge.

f. The destruction of the Seyyen 'Abud bridge in the northeastern part of Abdan.

g. The destruction of eight enemy gunboats.

3. The hero cavaliers of the Army helicopter gunships are participating in this honorable battle with great efforts and heroic deeds which have had a tremendous effect on the progress of battles. These hero cavaliers are filling the battle skies with their aircraft, pursuing the enemy rogues and their equipment with rockets and machineguns, and killing the enemies of the homeland. They carried out 258 combat missions today and returned safely to base after achieving the following:

a. Dealing violent blows to several enemy infantry concentrations.

b. Destroying one tank and one armored personnel carrier.

c. Destroying one self-propelled gun.

d. Destroying one launcher and one vehicle.

4. The lions of the sea are reviving the glories of their forefathers in the Dhat al-Sawari battle [an old Islamic sea battle] and are breavely guarding Arab waters against every invader and criminal aggressor. They emphasize to the whole world that the Gulf will remain Arab in the hands of its sons and their faultless shells. Our naval force carried out the following tasks today:

A. Our Navy spotted a large military target north of the Nowruz oil field. The cavaliers of the Navy Air Force swooped down on it and managed to blow it up and sink it. They then returned safely to base, praised be to God.

B. Our gunboats spotted a large enemy hovercraft in the northern part of the Arab Gulf. They fired their missiles and managed to destroy it and sink it with all occupants.

5. The men of the heroic III Army Corps continue to inflict massive losses on our criminal enemy. Several enemy groups attempted to approach our forward positions in the heroic Al-Husayn Forces sector. Our fighters confronted them with all types of weapons, killing 200 enemy soldiers. Some 20 infantry positions were also destroyed in the same sector. The valiant Al-Miqdad Forces managed to kill 20 enemy soldiers and destroy 2 boats carrying personnel. Elsewhere in the same sector, one medium-caliber machinegun; three vehicles, one of which was loaded with personnel; two ammunition dumps; and one observation post were destroyed and five enemy soldiers were killed. Thus, the total number of personnel killed in the III Army Corps sector amounts to 225.

6. Our men in the VI Army Corps sector killed 10 enemy soldiers and destroyed 5 infantry positions, 1 machinegun emplacement, 1 observation post, and 1 vehicle.

7. At 1350 [1050 GMT] today an enemy F-5 plane tried to penetrate our international border in the VII Army Corps sector. Our brave air defensemen intercepted it and succeeded in shooting it down with God's help.

All glory to you, O men. You have recorded the strongest and most honorable of epics, God bless you. It is God who grants you success. He is the best helper.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 February 1986

No 2,121

IN181836 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Communique No 2,121 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 18 February 1986]

[Excerpt] The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. Our criminal enemy in the VII Army Corps front is now staggering, thanks to successive blows by our valiant forces, and is futilely seeking to extricate itself from the deadend. The following was achieved yesterday evening and today:

A. Our three columns, the northern, central, and southern, aborted a series of desperate enemy attempts to approach our positions and to lift the siege imposed on its remnants who are cornered between Iraqi firepower and the water. All enemy attempts were repulsed in a humiliating manner. The enemy sustained very heavy losses in life and equipment, particularly opposite the heroic 5th Division and the forces supporting it in the area of the central column. Opposite this column alone, 1,280 were killed and large numbers were taken prisoner yesterday evening.

B. After crushing these enemy attempts, our forces resumed their advance toward their set targets this morning. The heroic southern column succeeded in penetrating enemy positions, in purging the land of its filth to a distance of 2.5 km, in forcing the enemy forces to withdraw in disarray, and in inflicting on the enemy forces heavy losses in life and equipment.

As for the central column, we will provide you with the results of its activities later.

With respect to the northern column, its only task today was to entrench its postiions and to engage enemy forces in battle and destroy them.

Blessed be the men in the VII Army Corps front. Proceed with further offerings until we liberate the last inch of our land from the filthy aggressors. Victory is close, God willing.

2. The heroic helicopter gunship knights continue to impose their control on the battlefield and to pursue the retreating enemy forces, inflicting losses in life, equipment, and military hardware. The helicopter gunship knights carried out 98 combat sorties today during which they provided our ground forces in the VII Army Corps front with effective support and destroyed many enemy troop concentrations. After carrying out their duty, they safely returned to their bases, praise be to God. Blessed be your hands, O hero helicopter gunship knights.

3. With God's help and the ever-increasing determination of the brave men of the Navy, a large enemy troop ship has been destroyed. The ship, which the enemy was using to bring reinforcements to its collapsing units, was blown up at 1550 today. Blessed be the brave men of the Navy.

4. The brave men of the III Army Corps killed 18 enemy troops, set 1 vehicle and 1 ammunition dump on fire, and destroyed 1 (FBJ-9) gun and 1 mortar position whose occupants were killed. In the II Army Corps sector, two infantry positions were destroyed. One mortar position was destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector and its occupants were killed.

5. The brave men of our ground resistance shot down two enemy planes over the VII Army Corps front. The first, an F-4, was shot down at 1220, and the second, an F-5, was shot down at 1300 today. Thus, a total of 10 planes have been shot down since the night of 9-10 February — 8 fighter planes and 2 helicopters. O brave soldiers of truth, deal more blows. God will grant us victory over the unjust clique.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 February 1986

King Husayn Receives U.S. Senator Mathias

JN161854 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon U.S. Senator Charles Mathias, who is currently visiting Jordan.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Prince Hasan, Al-Rifa'i Receive Senator

JN161307 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Amman —His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received in his office this morning U.S. Senator Charles Mathias, who is currently visiting Jordan. They reviewed the situation in the Middle East in general and the situation in the occupied Arab territories in particular. The U.S. ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received Mr Mathias in his office this morning. They reviewed the latest developments of the Middle East issue and efforts being exerted to bring about a just and lasting solution to the Palestine question within the framework of an international conference to be attended by all parties to the conflict and with the participation of the permanent UN Security Council member states.

The U.S. ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

King Husayn Receives U.S. Representative Wilson

JN171444 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1423 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Amman, 17 Feb (PETRA) — His Majesty King Husayn received U.S. Representative Charles Wilson at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon.

Attending the meeting were Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Prime Minister Receives Representative

JN171310 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Amman — Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received U.S. Representative Charles Wilson, who is currently visiting Jordan, at his office this morning. They reviewed the situation in the region in general and ways to find a just and permanent solution to the Middle East problem within the framework of an international conference to be attended by all parties to the conflict in the area and by the five permanent members of the Security Council. The meeting was attended by the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Prime Minister Al-Rifa'i Reiterates Support for Iraq

JN181437 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i has said that Iraq is now waging an honorable battle in defense of its sacred soil and the entire Arab nation. The Iraq Army is daily recording a new epic of heroic deeds and sacrifices. In a speech delivered in a House of Representatives session this morning presided over by Speaker 'Akif al-Fayiz and attended by ministers, the prime minister added: As you know, Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn has stood alongside Iraq since the first day of the Iranian regime's aggression more than 5 years ago. This has not changed or altered. God willing, this will not change or alter. This is the most basic duty and this is what is required by Arabism, Islam, and pan-Arab commitment.

Commenting on a number of representatives' speeches praising Iraq's heroic position, the prime minister said that the duty of Arabs and Muslims is to adopt a unified stand vis-a-vis the Iranian regime and its aggression against Arabs and Muslims and not just against Iraq. The prime minister said that His Majesty King Husayn is in continuous contact with his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and that the situation on the front, praise be to God, is reassuring. The valiant Iraqi Army succeeded in containing the offensive. God willing, we will all celebrate with fraternal Iraq — president, Army, and people — in repulsing and eliminating the aggressors and putting an end to this destructive war as soon as possible.

A number of representatives spoke at the beginning of the session on the recent aggression against fraternal Iraq. They praised the pan-Arab stands of His Majesty King Husayn, who placed all of Jordan's potentials and resources at fraternal Iraq's disposal at the beginning of the Iranian aggression. The representatives condemned this aggression, which is aimed at fraternal Iraq's territory. They appealed to the Arab nation to stand alongside Iraq to enable it to repulse the aggression in implementation of the Collective Arab Defense Pact.

The session was attended by Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, head of the Arab and international relations committee of the Iraqi National Assembly, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Libyan Support of Iranian Aggression Condemned

JN181241 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Amman — Acting Foreign Minister Hazim Nusaybah today issued the following statement:

The Jordanian Government has studied the Libyan-Iranian joint statement which was broadcast in Tehran and Tripoli the day before yesterday regarding the Iraq-Iran war, which included the flagrant Libyan support for the criminal Iranian aggression on the people, territory, and honor of Iraq. The Jordanian Government, the Jordanian people, and the Arab nation in all its countries and states, who are proudly following the heroic and honorable battles being waged by their kinfolk and righteous brothers on the great Arab homeland's eastern flank, who are sacrificing all that is dear to them for the sake of defending their sacred homeland, its Arabism, dignity, and the security of the entire Arab homeland — express their deep astonishment at and strong deunciation and condemnation of the Libyan stand.

The Jordanian Government seizes this historic opportunity in the history of our nation and the struggle of the hero Iraqi brothers to reiterate its full support for and pride in Arab Iraq, and its belief in Iraq's inevitable victory over the criminal aggression against it and the entire Arab nation.

Foreign Ministry Complains to UN on Fighting in South

NC181307 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Lebanon today submitted a complaint to the UN Security Council on the events in the south. Lebanon reserved the right to call a Security Council meeting. The Foreign Ministry sent messages to the president of the Security Council and to the UN secretary general. Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, Lebanon's permanent ambassador to the United Nations, will deliver these messages.

President al-Jumayyil, who is in Paris, is in contact with the Foreign Ministry to follow the developments in the south.

Birri Calls for 'Unconditional' Israeli Withdrawal

NC182033 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 18 Feb 86

[News conference held by Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction, in Beirut on 18 February — recorded]

[Excerpts][Birri] On the anniversary of the martyrdom of Shaykh Raghib Harb, I congratulate the group of the martyr shaykh on the heroic deed it performed within the border strip yesterday. Indeed, this action is seen as a real intensification and a tangible instance of progress in the operations of the National Resistance. Israel has used this deed as an excuse to attack and enter cities and villages in the south. This is a desperate and miserable attempt by Israel to sow the seeds of discord between the National Resistance and the inhabitants of the south. Israel forgets, or disregards, the fact that this resistance is not imported — it belongs to the people and springs from their midst. The people of the south and their resistance have answered this attempt at sowing dissension by their magnificent opposition to the forces of the new invasion in Haris, Kafra, Sribbin, Haddathah, Shaqra, Al-Sultaniyah, Jsir al-Qa'qa'iyah, Burj Qalaway, and Al-Ghanduriyah.

Once again, let Israel know that the only solution lies in its unconditional and total withdrawal, along with its agents, from all Lebanese territory, in accordance with Security Council resolution 425, which provides for the deployment of UNIFIL as far as the border. This resistance was not created to remain behind its border. This resistance is not foreign to the people. We challenge Israel, as we challenged it a year or more ago, to stay in the south and in the areas that it is trying to re-enter now. Israel's purpose has become known. It wants to maintain full control of all routes that would permit it to steal the waters of south Lebanon. Israel, which created a schism in 1978 between some of the misled agents and the rest of the people, is now trying to create a wider human and geographical schism. We shake the hands of those who now stand to challenge and confront the treacherous enemy.

[Question] Your Excellency the Minister. [words indistinct] do you expect a further Israeli escalation in light of this fait accompli?

[Birri] There are hundreds of Lebanese captives. Why then are we asked only about two Israeli captives and not about the hundreds of our captives in the Al-Khiyam and elsewhere? The whole south, indeed, is captive. The reasons for the capture of the two Israelis are Israel's stubbornness and the fact that it is still in the south despite having announced its withdrawal from south Lebanon. If it has really withdrawn from south Lebanon, then why were these two captives taken in Bayt Yahun township, which is more than 15 km away from the Lebanese-Palestinian border?

[Question] Is this operation in retaliation for the capture of the two Israeli soldiers, or is it connected with current developments?

[Birri] I have answered this question by saying that this is a pretext; Israel's main objective is to try to sow discord between the inhabitants of the south and the resistance. In other words, Israel is trying to tell the people in its own way that had it not been for such operations, the new incursion would have not taken place.

[Question] Do you expect this escalation in the south to have an effect on internal developments?

[Birri] When Amin al-Jumayyil relied on the United States and consequently on Israel in his attempt to foil the tripartite agreement, he was aware that Israel could exert pressure in south Lebanon. What has happened and is happening now is part of this plan and it is a very important message, particularly to the national forces, which abrogated the 17 May agreement.

[Question] [indistinct]

[Birri] UNIFIL is not there to protect Israel but to protect the people of the south. It is a protective force that has been prevented from implementing Security Council Resolution 425. UNIFIL represents the international will and not the will of Israel. It is only Israel that is preventing UNIFIL from deploying everywhere. Consequently, Israel is responsible for all that has happened and all that will happen.

[Question] As is to be expected, Israel is carrying out new actions and new aggressions and it is using new methods. Are there any plans to strengthen the National Resistance so that it may confront these new methods?

[Birri] The truth is that we have learned a lesson from this new invasion. We will soon study all practical ways of strengthening the resistance to prevent the recurrence of such an invasion, or at least to make it costly. I will not add to this.

[Question] [indistinct]

[Birri] Our orders are clear. They stipulate that every manifestation of the Israeli presence must be resisted. Today's operation came as absolutely no surprise to us. As I said, we challenge [Israel] to stay in any part of our land.

[Question] Will you make any moves on the diplomatic level?

[Birri] We have started to do so. We have seen some ambassadors and will see others.

[Question] [indistinct]

[Birri] We have seen nothing.

Reports on 'Battles' in South, Captured Israelis

'Pitched Battles' in Villages

NC181437 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1409 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] We have just been informed by our correspondents in the south that pitched battles have been taking place in the townships of Srifa and Sil'a. The inhabitants of these townships and men of the resistance have been fighting the Israeli invading forces since 1500. A UNIFIL source reports that scores of vehicles are taking part in the invasion and raids of the southern villages; namely, Srifa and Sil'a. UNIFIL official spokesman Timor Goksel stated this afternoon that the Israelis may withdraw today from the liberated areas, which they had reentered.

Resistance Threatens Settlements

NC181537 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpts] According to our correspondents in the south, Israeli military vehicles entered the northern part of Haris at 1630 this afternoon. There is intensive enemy helicopter activity over Haris and along the Haris-Haddathah Road and Haris-Tibnin Road lines. The Israeli forces had earlier left Haris. Some proceeded toward Haddathah township, while others entered the township of Tibnin. A third group went to Dayr Mtar township. In a statement issued today, the Lebanese National Resistance warned that it will continue to shell settlements far from the border if the Israeli forces do not withdraw.

3 Israelis Said Killed

NC181557 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1415 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] The Lebanese National Resistance issued the following statement this afternoon: At exactly 2300 last night, the martyr Hijaz al-Hijazi group of the National Resistance ambushed an Israeli intelligence patrol on the Wadi al-Hujayr bridge. The patrol consisted of three civilian cars. The group fired at the vehicles and a 30-minute clash ensued. One car was burned with three intelligence men inside it. The group returned safely to base.

'Islamic Resistance' on Fighting

NC181630 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1405 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] The Islamic Resistance issued a statement a short while ago, which said: After fighters from the Islamic Resistance carried out a daring operation in Kunin that led to the death of six elite enemy soldiers and the capture of two officers, who have been taken to a safe place and are receiving medical treatment, the enemy became hysterical. Gripped by panic, he massed large forces and invaded our peaceful and resisting villages. However, in the wake of their great operation, Islamic Resistance fighters have continued to confront the attacking forces and to inflict the most painful of blows. Soon will the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take [Koranic verse]. The following heroic battles took place between 1900 last night and 1130 this morning:

An Islamic Resistance group intercepted an Israeli convoy on the Shaqra Road at 1900. Our forces damaged a tracked vehicle, killing all those aboard. The Islamic Resistance will continue to combat Israeli aggression.

At 0045 last night, a second group in Kunin detonated an explosive charge at an Israeli enemy assembly point, causing a large number of Israeli casualties.

The statement from the Islamic Resistance then described every phase of yesterday's operations, adding: At approximately 0800 today, Tuesday 18 February, we received information that enemy vehicles and infantry had deployed on the approaches to Haris and Kafra, and were moving toward Sribbin. The reports said three enemy helicopters had flown over Al-Shihabiyah as part of a thorough search operation. Vehicles were seen advancing toward the village in an attempt to reinforce the enemy's positions.

At approximately 0900, Islamic Resistance fighters downed an enemy helicopter on the outskirts of Srifa. All the enemy soldiers aboard were killed. Three of our strugglers were slightly wounded, and they were taken to hospitals for treatment. In the meantime, resistance fighters clashed with enemy units in Srifa and Qalaway. They also engaged Israeli planes over Al-Nabatiyah, Zawtar, and Al-Qa'iyah. The aircraft dropped leaflets, the contents of which are not yet known. The planes are using heavy fire to strafe roads between the villages.

At approximately 0910, the attacking Zionist forces tried to land troops between Qalaway and Srifa, but were foiled by our Islamic fighters. As a result of this heroic opposition, the Islamic resistance suffered several casualties, who have been transferred to the Jabal 'Amil Hospital in Tyre for treatment.

Our comrades in the faithful resistance managed to hit two Israeli boats off the coast of Tyre at approximately 0915. At approximately 1055, Israeli warplanes came in low over the city of Tyre. They were fired on by ground defense forces, and were compelled to fly at a high altitude. Our fighters report that Israeli gunboats have been on constant patrol since yesterday.

At approximately 1100, helicopters flew over the township of Dayr Kifa, and our heroes engaged them. At approximately 1115, enemy warplanes flew over Srifa to support an advancing motorized unit. The Islamic fighters who opposed the enemy's attacking forces managed to damage a vehicle in Bra'shit. One member of the resistance was wounded; he is being treated and his condition is good.

At 1130, a number of Israeli tank columns entered Srifa. Large groups of fighters from the Islamic and faithful resistance rushed to surround their attackers, and they are now using various types of weapons against them.

The Islamic Resistance has also monitored the establishment of an Israeli roadblock in Kafr Dunin.

Hizballah To Publish Photos

NC181757 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1730 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] A responsible source in Hizballah has announced that the two Israeli prisoners captured yesterday are receiving treatment for their wounds. He added that Hizballah will release their names and publish their pictures and photos of their identity cards.

The source called on all fighters to go to southern Lebanon, which is the true proving ground for everyone seeking liberation, confrontation, and faith.

The source was speaking to the PRESS NEWS AGENCY. He declared: We will not forfeit our right to call those who killed one of our comrades on Sunday to account. This will be done without fomenting sedition.

'Explosion' of Israeli Warship

NC182046 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Statement issued by the Amal movement leadership on 18 February; place not given]

[Text] The leadership of Amal declares that the movement's forces are resisting the Israelis everywhere, and have prevented them from entering a single village. In addition to an undetermined number of enemy casualties, today's fighting resulted in the downing of a helicopter between Srifa and Dayr Kifa, the explosion of a warship off Al-Naqurah, and the destruction of a tank and its crew in the Kafr Yunin Triangle.

The morale of the Amal forces is very high, and they continue to check the enemy's attempts to advance. The battles are still raging.

Beirut Radio Roundup of Fighting

NC181855 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Our latest information from the south indicates that the [Israeli] occupation forces have withdrawn from the town of Dayr Kifa after arresting the following three citizens: Muhammad Nasrallah, Mahmud Hasan ‘Ilayan, and Muhsin ‘Ilayan. According to the same reports, Husayn ‘Abd al-Nabi led a group of his fellow agents into Majdal Silm at around 1700. They searched and looted homes before arresting eight people and moving on toward Dayr Ntar.

Other reports from the area state that UNIFIL's Ghanian contingent used its own buses to transport a number of people from Kafr Kunin to its positions in the region.

An explosive charge went off this afternoon in Qalaway while an enemy patrol was passing. A number of enemy soldiers were either killed or wounded. Fighting erupted in B‘ir al-Salasil pitting local residents and the members of resistance groups against the crews of enemy vehicles. Two such vehicles were destroyed, and another was burned at the entrance to [word indistinct].

Israeli gunboats continue to roam off the southern coast between Al-Zahrani and Tyre.

Members of the resistance fired dozens of rockets at the Upper Galilee region. They also shelled the Sribbin-[word indistinct] position.

Israeli warplanes conducted mock raids at noon all along the coastal road between Al-Naqurah and Abu al-Aswad, while military pressure on the Srifa-Burj Qalaway combat line became intense. However, as a result of the heroic opposition, the enemy was forced to pull out of Al-Shihabiyah and Sil‘a, and to retire to the nearby hills. At noon, we received word that motorized units were advancing on the towns of Srifa and Al-Ghanduriyah. There was fierce fighting on the Srifa-Burj Qalaway-Dayr Kifa front, and the occupation forces, which used tanks and helicopters, managed to enter Dayr Kifa.

Our correspondents in the south have informed us that Israeli military vehicles have been deployed since 1630 today on the northern side of Haris, while enemy helicopters conducted an extensive series of sorties over the town and reconnoitered the Haris-Haddathah and Haris-Tibnin roads. The enemy had already withdrawn from Haris; some of his units went to Haddathah, while others entered Tibnin or headed toward Dayr Ntar.

At 0925 today, enemy planes dropped leaflets on the towns that have been the scenes of fighting asking their inhabitants not to get in the way of the occupation troops. The leaflets were signed by Israeli General Ori Or, commander of the so-called Northern Sector.

Verified reports state that members of the resistance fired 107-mm rockets at enemy convoys between Bi‘r al-Salasil and Al-Qantarah. In addition, they detonated a number of explosive charges under a military convoy on the Al-Qantarah-Al-Ghanduriyah Road and under a similar column on the Hula-Shaqra Road. [words indistinct] group of tanks and trucks between Al-Ghanguriyah and Al-Shihabiyah. One truck was destroyed, but the number of casualties could not be determined.

Information from the battlefield indicates that military helicopters destroyed two private cars filled with retreating civilians near Bi‘r al-Salasil.

'Resistance Front' Communiques

NC190658 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] The Resistance Front has released three communiques on its group's operations. The first communique says that early today a resistance group, after a 30-minute clash, repulsed an attempt by a Zionist force to advance from Shihin toward Majdal Jun. As a result of the clash, columns of fire were seen rising from two M-13 APC's. agent Lahd radio admitted that the operation took place on the outskirts of Shihin at approximately 0230.

The second communique notes that a group of strugglers shelled the Jewish settlement (Jardish) in occupied Palestine at 0100 today. Israeli radio admitted the shelling this morning, but made no mention of casualties.

A third communique says that despite the Zionist enemy's columns of tanks, warplanes, and gunboats, a resistance group early today carried out a two-pronged operation. This group pounded both the El-Mansura settlement, which is deep inside the occupied Palestinian territory, and the artillery emplacements on Jabal Basil. This operation resulted in enemy losses, which the enemy radio did not mention.

Jewish Hostage Reported Killed

NC190755 Paris AFP in English 0750 GMT 19 Fe[illegible]

[Excerpt] Beirut, Feb 19 (AFP) — A Jewish hostage has been killed in Lebanon in retaliation for security raids in the south of the country by Israeli troops looking for two captured soldiers, the "Organization of the World's Oppressed" which claimed the abduction said here today.

Professor Eli Hallaq, vice-president of the Higher Council of the Jewish Community in Lebanon, was kidnapped in mainly Moslem West Beirut on March 30 of last year. Four other Jews were kidnapped around the same time.

A communique by the group published in the Lebanese daily *AN-NAHAR*, together with a polaroid photograph, accused Mr. Hallaq of being a member of the Israeli intelligence service Mossad.

It said that "the execution of this spy is a response to the terrorist operations carried out by Israel against oppressed villages in south Lebanon."

'Fierce' Fighting in South

NC190820 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] We received the following security report a short while ago: The Israeli forces, which were deployed throughout the night in Ruwaysat Nahlah, south of Haris, have again stormed the southern outskirts of Haris. These forces are searching houses, as helicopters make overflights and two Merkava tanks patrol the town. Fierce fighting is currently raging along the Dayr Kifa-Srifa-Al-Ghanduriyah combat lines.

Hizballah Sends More Gunmen

NC190834 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0815 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Reports indicate that Hizballah is sending more gunmen to the confrontation lines in the south, with support from pro-'Arafat Palestinian groups, particularly those in the 'Ayn al-Hilwah camp, where arms are being distributed to the Hizballah gunmen.

Israeli Gunboats Off Coast

NC190940 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0900 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Israeli occupation forces continue to comb through houses, causing further destruction and ruin. According to the latest reports from the south, since early in the day Israeli helicopters have been conducting searches in B'ir al-Salasil, Al-Ghandiriyah, and Frun. Israeli gunboats are still roaming off the shore from north of Sidon to south of Tyre. It has been reported that the National Resistance is maintaining high efficiency and morale in its strong defense.

Israeli Helicopters Land Troops

NC191023 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1006 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] We have just received reports from the south indicating that Israeli helicopters carried out a landing operation in the outskirts of Srifa at 1000 today. Other enemy aircraft have reconnoitered the area. Israeli vehicles under the command of an intelligence force were spotted advancing toward Srifa, Frun, and Al-Ghanduriyah.

Demonstrations in West Beirut Against Israel

NC191024 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0945 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] This morning in West Beirut demonstrators protested Israeli operations. The march began in the areas of 'A'ishah Bakkar, Al-Hamra, Al-Zarif, and Burj Abu Haydar and headed in the direction of Minister Nabih Birri's house on Barbur Street. During the demonstrations, a number of gunmen, some of whom have threatened to close schools by force, had many disputes.

Palestinian Group Threatens Spanish Targets

NC181306 Paris AFP in English 1258 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Beirut, Feb 18 (AFP) — A Palestinian group today threatened to attack Spanish targets if two Palestinian prisoners held in Spain were not released within a fortnight. The group calling itself the organization of the sons of the martyrs of Tall al-Za'tar made the warning in a communique broadcast on the Arab language Voice of the Homeland radio in mainly Moslem West Beirut.

The organization is named after a Palestinian refugee camp which was overrun by Christian militia in 1976 with the loss of some 1,600 lives. It warned it would "retaliate" against Spanish interests in Spain and abroad unless the two prisoners, Khadir Jabir and Muhammad 'Ali Sharar, were released.

A Spanish diplomat in Amman said the two were students in Spain and had been arrested after two Israeli soldiers were murdered in Barcelona last October.

Hostages Freed

NC191212 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1203 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] We have just been informed that three hostages were released a short while ago. These are two Lebanese and a Spanish national. The three were taken to the residence of Minister Nabih Birri, who immediately handed them over to the Spanish ambassador in Beirut.

Army Repulses Infiltration Attempt in Al-Matn

NC181608 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1515 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] The Lebanese Army has repulsed an attempt by gunmen to infiltrate into the cemetery area on the Al-'Ayrun-al-Dawwar combat line. Our correspondent reports from there that since 1650 the Al-'Ayrun-al-Dawwar line has been the scene of clashes in which all types of weapons are being used. Mortar exchanges have also been taking place. Our correspondent adds that tension on this combat line is still high. The 'Ayn al-Tuffahah-Mar Ilyas-Shwayya combat line came under attack from heavy machineguns at 1630. Mortars and anti-tank shells were fired before the clashes abated at 1700.

Paris Daily Interviews AL-Asad on Regional Issues

JN181822 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 18 Feb 86

["Text" of interview with President Hafiz al-Asad by chief editor Serge July and Middle East department chief Mrs Josette Garcon of the Paris newspaper *Liberation*, published on 14 February 1986]

[Text] Question: You intervened in Lebanon for the first time in 1975 and suggested changing the constitution. Now, 11 years later, what result have you reached, and what is Syria's role" Many matters have not changed.

Al-Asad: The story of Lebanon is a long one. If we want to talk about all that has taken place since 1975, we will spend a great deal of time.

We entered in Lebanon in 1976 in response to many pressing requests by Lebanese officials — deputies and ministers — as well as by citizens in many villages and cities. Those people called for help to mitigiate the pain from which they were suffering at that time — pain from sieges, killings, highway robberies, and otehr actions. Since that time, we have always believed that we entered Lebanon to help the Lebanese, not to replace them. We have always stood alongisde the party, the group, the faction, and the personalities that support and work for peace. Consequently, we stood against the other parties in order to force them to the position of those working to achieve national peace. We never thought of chamioning one party over another.

After entering Lebanon we stopped the civil war and achieved security there. We would like here to mention that individual actions took place here and there because everyone was armed and the state had no control over the situation. It is natural to see more individual actions than in otehr countries. We have always believed that we achieved the objective of our entry after a short time there. We achieved our objective: security. We believe that this first objective, which we achieved, is the basic precondition to achieving national peace. We also believe that our role in the stage of achieving national peace is diferent from our role in the stage of achieving security. In the stage of security, we achieved security with our forces, but in the stage of peace we constitute a helping factor, and the Lebanese parties should deal with each other and hold dialogues to search for peace. These parties have social, political, and cultural issues and they themselves should reach agreement on their differences.

Our role is to prompt all parties to agree on common points. Our role here is to help. The basic role related to agreeing on common points and to endorsing this agreement should be played by the parties. At this stage we should take into consideration the widespread foreign interference. Undoubtedly, that interference played an important role in preventing the Lebanese from achieving peace.

However, this does not free Lebaense officials from their responsibility for the continuation of the deteriorating situation. They themselves contributed to creating an atmosphere that encouraged foreign hostile forces, particularly Israel, to interefere in Lebanese internal affairs and to maintain instability there.

Anyone acquainted with our efforts and statements since 1976 knows that the only path to save Lebanon and the Lebaense is dialogue and accord.

Garcon: For months Syria has been exerting every effort to hold a dialogue and reach understanding among the Lebanese. But following the signing of the tripartite agreement, which was called the Damscus agreement, several Lebanese sides rejected it. Why did they reject it and what is the current situation with regard to this agreement?

Al-Asad: Before answering this question, I would like to add the following to my previous answer: The failure of many Lebanese sides in Lebanon to achieve peace did not make us abandon Lebanon. We have continued our efforts and our human and economic sacrifices to help Lebanon achieve peace. Although we could not achieve peace, for which we have done much in past years, we did manage to alleviate much of the suffering and to keep the channels of communication open among the different parties.

The situation in Lebanon is bad, but there is no doubt that if Syria had not helped Lebanon the situation there would have been much more worse. It is noteworthy that nobody in the world wanted or could extend assistance to Lebanon similar to that extended by Syria. Many of Lebanon's friends, who wanted to help, made efforts at different times, but these efforts were limited and could not reach the point of the economic, human, and political sacrifices, which we can describe as important. Syria made unique and rare sacrifices for the sake of Lebanon.

Let us go back to Mrs Garcon's question. There is no doubt that this question should be posed to those who did not approve the agreement. We can say that we previously managed to hold meetings between Lebanese politicians and the warring parties in Geneva and Lausanne. During those meeting, a number of those politicians reiterated that they did not represent Lebanon; only the fighters in Lebanon represented it. In Geneva and Lausanne they reached some points of agreement, but they could not implement these points because of the fighters on the ground, as they put it. I say that in Geneva and Lausanne they agreed on some points, but could not reach a full agreement that could achieve complete peace in Lebanon. Even these points on which they agreed were not implemented. We tried to secure a meeting of the warring parties. This is what has happened over the past months.

We managed to hold a meeting of the warring militia leaders. Many meetings were held among them, and the politicians also gave their opinions during these meetings. They followed up the meetings, contacted the various parties, and gave their opinions. We in Syria also met and contacted these politicians in order to put them in the picture of the meetings and to acquaint ourselves with their opinion about what was taking place.

The most important thing is that the fighters reached an agreement. This was very important because, in addition to the constructive ideas contained in the agreement, it was an agreement among those directly fighting on the ground. It was also important because in the end a large number of politicians and national personalities agreed on it.

We can say that all Lebanese parties, except a very few, participated in the agreement. The National Alliance Front agreed on it. That front consists of the largest number of parties in Lebanon. It consists of the Progressive Socialist Party, the Amal movement, the Lebanese Communist Party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the National Syrian Social Party, and a number of other national parties. The agreement was also accepted by a number of former and present ministers, former prime ministers, the present prime minister, a number of Muslim and Christian national personalities, former President Sulayman Franjiyah, and the Lebanese forces. But the Phalange Party leadership did not agree on it. President Amin al-Jumayyil is a member of the Phalange Party Political Bureau. Therefore, we can say that the majority of the Lebanese have agreed on the tripartite agreement.

It is not easy to talk about or define what those who rejected the agreement are hiding. Those who rejected the agreement did not specifically tell us what it is they reject. The talk was general, and this general talk appeared to be a rejection of the whole agreement. It was a rejection of all sections of the agreement.

We had hoped that the dialogue and rejection were political. The matter would have been simpler and better for Lebanon and for its advance toward peace. However, developments became tragic, especially in so-called East Beirut. I mean within the Lebanese forces and between these Forces and the Phalangists.

Since the agreement was signed, we have opposed violence. I say this because those who signed the agreement should have been able to implement it immediately. Our responsibility may be that we prevented this. I mean it appeared as if we gave an opportunity to those who wanted to carry out actions that would change the situation in Lebanon on the ground not in favor of the agreement. We have been told that the eastern area paid the price of these developments in about 600 killed. Of course, the 600 killed have not achieved a solution in Lebanon. On the contrary, they opened the path for more killings among themselves.

In any case, our viewpoint now is that the agreement, without paying attention to the small details — the agreement, in its ideas and outlines, will remain the only door for the Lebanese to achieve peace.

The situation in Lebanon now is no longer as it was in previous years. In the past a number of parties were able at various times to show that the fighting was between Muslims and Christians. The matter now is not so. Various Lebanese parties, personalities, and groups from various Lebanese factions stand in one front while a small group is standing in another position. Therefore, it is difficult to say that the fighting is between Muslims and Christians.

Certainly, in this world there will remain people, newspapers, countries that will talk in this language, but the situation on the ground is not so.

Syria will continue to stop violence even though it is between large and small factions, as it is doing now. This does not mean that Syria's efforts will keep the situation in Lebanon unresolved. We cannot completely prevent others from carrying out any actions.

Question: Is President al-Jumayyil still your primary official party in dialogue? Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said that there will be no 12th or 13th summit. Will you alter this situation a bit? Will there be a meeting?

Al-Asad: We should warn that the agreement is not between Syria and Lebanon or between Syria and one or more parties in Lebanon. The agreement is among the Lebanese, and Syria helped in achieving it. The other point is that the agreement does not express the viewpoint of any party in Lebanon separately. In other words, the agreement does not represent the complete conviction of any Lebanese party. It is a compromise among the warring parties. The agreement does not represent Syria's viewpoint. If we were asked to lay down an ideal solution as we see it in Syria, we would have a solution that is completely different from this agreement. If the Lebanese parties were asked to find a formula, each would propose a different formula. Therefore, the agreement is not ours or the agreement of any Lebanese party. Our role was to assemble them and urge each party to take a step toward the other party.

Question: Therefore, what is the future of relations between you and President al-Jumayyil? Will you continue your support for him as you did in past years?

Al-Asad: We supported him and we will continue to do so so long as he is a factor to achieve accord among the Lebanese. If the contrary happens, we will be observers.

Quesiton: Mr President, you said that this agreement is not yours, nor is it an ideal in your opinion. Is it a factional agreement? Syria is a secular country and you exerted great efforts to reach secularism in Lebanon. Does this mean that you do not agree on the context of the agreement as it was presented?

Al-Asad: We agree on this agreement because we take into consideration the current circumstances through which Lebanon is passing and the situation created by the past circumstances in Lebanon. I mean the aftermath of independence. We believe that the agreement is good in terms of what is possible. It provides a good thing for the future and stops the bloodshed. We base our belief on the fact that life is not rigid and the process of development is not limited. Time is moving, human needs are moving, and human aspirations to a better future are continuous.

Here is an example: We, in Syria, oppose a sectarian regime. We believe that the cancellation of sectarianism in Leabnon is an important and useful matter for Lebanon. If the matter were completely in my hands, we would say right now that sectarianism is canceled in Lebanon.

In light of the dimensions and justifications which I have mentioned, we believe that this is not the best possible thing. We pushed each party toward the other. One party wants to cancel sectarianism directly but the other may not want to cancel it. They have reached a half-way position in accordance with which sectarianism will be canceled graudually through the Chamber of Deputies. This point may provide an idea of all articles of the agreement. This point in particular does not completely express any party's viewpoint separately. Therefore, they reached a compromise.

Question: If all chances for negotiations fail, do you expect Syrian military intervention?

Al-Asad: We do not intend to intervene. In the past, we intervened to stop fighting among people. It is correct that our forces were forced to defend themselves in the face of some militias, but they were not a party. In the future, if they do not reach a solution, we will stop our intervention to stop the fighting. This is what our stand will be. We believe that the sides and parties which support accord are the stronger.

Question: Do you still consider President al-Jumayyil a factor of accord and understanding in Lebanon, or has he become a factor of fragmentation?

Al-Asad: I do not express my opinion on any particular person. Whenever he talks to me, I will talk with him as the president of the republic. We stood by him strongly in the past stage. In the past stage, he used to talk about accord. While others never agreed that Shaykh al-Jumayyil would be a factor of accord, we disagreed with them on this.

We can only say that his stand in recent days and since the signing the agreement was not positive or constructive to achieve peace in Lebanon. We do not believe that this stand is an objective vis-a-vis the needs of the Lebanese people. In any case, we are not the ones who will tackle this matter, particularly through violence. We believe that our role in Lebanon is summarized in two matters: First, to mitigate violence in the service of peace; second, to help in achieving peace.

Question: Is there a date for an expected meeting with President al-Jumayyil?

Al-Asad: No, the matter is not being raised now by the Syrians or Lebanese.

Question: Mr President, most of the Lebanese parties oppose President al-Jumayyil, and Syria's allies are calling for his resignation. You have said that in the past you always supported Lebanese legitimacy and that you still support it. President al-Jumayyil naturally represents this legitimacy. Does this support mean that you do not want to bypass some red lines drawn by Western countries, particularly the United States, France, and the Vatican?

Al-Asad: In fact, our support for legitimacy or for others is not linked at all to any red line, except the red line which is linked to Lebanese accord and peace. We behaved on this basis, and on this basis we will behave in the future. This line which is linked to accord will achieve accords or differences with other forces outside Lebanon. On this occasion, I would like to point out that in those years we did not have any significant differences with France. During Presidnt Mitterrand's visit to Damascus, through our review of the situation in Lebanon, and in our discussions of what we believed was good for Lebanon, we had no differences on our concepts in general.

Question: Your Excellency, what guarantee can be given to the Maronites in Lebanon regarding the future so that they do not become second-class citizens?

Al-Asad: Tackling the issue in this way or looking at the Lebanese problem from this angle is incorrect and dangerous. I know there are Christian and non-Christian sects in France. Do they distribute tasks, posts, education, and all matters of life in light of the French citizens religious or sectarian affilation, or in light of his French nationality? Consequently, what would the answer be if you were asked about the guarantees that France grants to the Maronites or any other sect in france? The guarantee for all citizens in any country is a national system that cares for the homeland as a whole and gives each citizen his rights in light of his citizenship and in light of national standards, and not in light of his sectarian affiliation or sectarian standards. On this base, linking any system, law, or regulation to sectarian affiliations and formulating these systems in accordance with sectarian standards causes injustice to all sects in the country concerned and consequently to all citizens. Therefore, let us exchange the national system for the of sectarian system and search for guarantees for all citizens in Lebanon.

My answer to the question is that the guarantee to the Lebanese is the establishment of a national nonsectarian system in which the Lebanese citizen is dealt with in light of national political standards and not in light of sectarian standards. The sectarian system did not create a homeland in the real sense of the world, because the individual's life is linked to his sect. The individual is employed in light of his sectarian affiliation, educated in light of this affiliation, eats his bread in light of this affiliation. Therefore, when there is a national problem, he specifies his stand on it light of the narrow sectarian viewpoint, in light of his sectarian affiliation, and adopts the stand resulting from that whether it conflicts with the interest of the homeland as a whole or not. This is not a proper system for life.

I do not know of any other system with identical conditions. In Germany, for example, problems occurred inthe past between Catholic and Protestant sects. However, they opted for a national, nonsectrian solution. Sectarianism is disease in any country. I distinguish here between sectarianism and religion. I mean that the individual has the right to be as religious as he wants. But our daily life as citizens should not be decided in light of our sectarian adn religious affiliations.

Question: Your Excellency, do you believe that Lebanon, some day in the future, can become nonsectarian, even on the level of the president of the republic?

Al-Asad: The matter is not a subject of discussion now. However, in principle, I do not see anything against that. I wish to refer to a point. I asked you a while ago about French guarantees for Maronites. Your answer woudl be that there is no problem in France because all are French. Here also, it must be taken into consideration that all Lebanese are Arabs. Despite the French interest in Lebanon, I noticed that the historical dimension in Lebanon is not accuaratly understood on a wide level among all Frenchmen. I mean that you may find a French citizen who thinks that Maronites are an independent entity and not Arabs. There are Frenchmen who think that the Maronites do not know

Arabic, except for those of them who learned it as a foreign language.

The Maronites are basically Arab like the rest of the Lebanese people and like us Syrians. The Maronite teachings have not emerged from Lebanon, and Mar Maron himself lived in Aleppo and was buried in the township of Al-Rastan in the heart of Syria.

The important thing is that the laws should not distinguish between the citizens, who must be treated on national criteria. This will guarantee everybody's rights. Regardless of all our opinions, we will support any agreement achieved by the Lebanese. We are always ready to encourage them to reach an agreement whether or not it is the best for us. Of course, the links between us and Lebanon will not be adversely affected regardless of the agreement they may reach. The historic ties between the two countries are not governed by a number of sentences on paper. Therefore, we are concerned about achieving an agreement that will lead even to partial reforms and peace and stop the bloodshed and mitigate their and our burden.

Question: Let us move from Lebanon to the Palestinians. The military situation in the Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon is similar to that which had prevailed in the Tripoli and Beirut camps. Can the Amal movement, Syria, and Israel accept an armed Palestinian presence in Lebanon, especially in light of the fact that this armed presence may lead to instability?

Al-Asad: We should distinguish between two issues. First, the issue of the inhabitants in general: In this regard, the Palestinian citizens in all the Arab countries should be treated just like other citizens in those countries are treated. Of course, we are not trying to impose this on others although we believe in it and apply it in Syria. The Palestinian in Syria has the same rights as the Syrian citizen.

The second point is related to the Palestinian strugglers. We believe that all Arab countries should support them and enable them to move freely in their struggle to regain the Palestinian national rights. This applies to Lebanon just as it applies to Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and ony other Arab country. Israel has nothing to do with this issue because it occupies the land of Palestine and parts of the other Arab countries and is trying to expand. Its ambitions are no secret to the Arabs.

Question: How do you view the fact that the so-called Palestinian dissidents have not gained the support of the Arabs and the Palestinians in both the Arab countries and in the occupied lands, and that these citizens remain closer to the PLO under Yasir 'Arafat?

Al-Asad: It is well know that the vanguards of the Palestinian struggle are made up of a number of Palestinian organizations, msot of which adopt parallel political and militant lines. The people usually march behind their militant vanguards. Hence, the Palestinian people are marching behind these organizations which enjoy popularity withinthe framework of the Palestinian people. In fact, the Arab masses sympathize with these Palestinian organizations, which uphold the Palestinian people's rights.

Question: Vice President Rif'at al-Asad recently met with Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] in Switzerland. Do you see in this a sign of a rapprochement between Syria and the PLO command?

Al-Asad: We do not have a personal stand with regard to anyone in the Palestinian arena. I too met with Faruq Qaddumi in my office here a few months ago. The problem is not a personal one. Therefore, a meeting can take place between any Syrian official and any ordinary Palestinian citizen or leader at any time.

Question: The problem between Syria and Yasir 'Arafat is a political problem. If 'Arafat agrees to cancel what took place in the Amman PNC session and accepts a return to the Algiers PNC session resolutions, will you then agree to hold a meeting with him?

Al-Asad: The problem basically lies in the Palestinian arena. When the state of affairs improves in this arena, it will be possible for us to discuss matters that are submitted to us on this issue.

Question: But Yasir 'Arafat is defending a policy that is very similar to that which King Husayn is defending. Why then do you not agree to hold discussions with him while you have agreed to hold discussions with King Husayn?

Al-Asad: The disagreement, as I already said, is first of all between Yasir 'Arafat and his brothers in the Palestinian aena. Second, the state of affairs in the Palestinian arena has completely different characteristics from thestate of affais with respect to Jordan as a state. In any case, our stands and principles are constant. We define them in our discussions with any head of state or any person with whom we hold a discussion.

Question: Your Excellency, what do you expect from the resumption of dialogue with Jordan, and why have you not called for the cancellation of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, which you oppose?

Al-Asad: Who said that w did not ask for this? Our stand on the Amman agreement is a public stand, is known, and contains no ambiguities. We do not approve this agreement. As for dialogue with Jordan, one can say that relations between us are good now and both of us mention that it is important that they be good in the future. We can say that in the sphere of bilateral misunderstanding we have overcome an important stage. There are points which concern us on the bilateral level and which are of concern too to the brother Arabs. We have achieved progress on these points. We continue to discuss the other points. As you know, before I met with King Husayn, the prime ministers of the two countries met more than once. We are in agreement on rejecing direct negotiations and separate solutions. This was announced in a statement that was issued after the meeting of the two countries' prime ministers.

Question: Has King Husayn mentioned to you his contacts with Israeli officials?

Al-Asad He did not mention this.

Question: Will you visit Jordan soon?

Al-Asad: Not Yet. We have not set a date yet.

Question: Recent meetings have taken place between Syrian and Iraqi officials on the borders. Why were these meetings not followed up by other meetings, and why do you not consider holding such meetings in the future?

Al-Asad: These meetings did not require other meetings on other levels.

Question: You then believe that there is no chance of going further with these contacts?

Al-Asad: There are no factors for this.

Question: Your Excellency, what is your concept of peace in this region, because many say that you have a specific concept of peace? What are your views on peace in this region?

Al-Asad: It is simple. We want a just peace which restores every usurped right to those who have a legitimate claim to them. The territories Israel occupied must be regained, the Palestinian people's rights must be recognized, and the Palestinians must freely decide their fate and establish their independent state under the PLO. We want a just peace that puts an end to Israeli expansionist aspirations. The formula is through an international conference under UN auspices that will be attended by the two superpowers and maybe by other countries from outside this region, countries from Europe and other regions. Of course, in Fes we adopted a resolution saying that all the permanent UN Security Council member countries are to attend. This is the peace we want, and this is the road one must follow to achieve it. However, we see that Israel is not interested in a real peace. We are convinced that Israel is seriously working to establish a state from the Nile to the Euphrates. The Israelis believe that God has promised them this land and has made them its guardians. That's why they believe they must regain it. A few years ago, Shamir was in France. I read his answer to a question by one of the French journalists. The question was: Why not determine Israel's borders? Shamir's answer was: Israel's borders have been determined for a very long time. He was referring to the Torah and to the talk about an Israeli state from the Nile to the Euphrates. In hsi first visit to the Golan in 1967 after it was occupied by Israel, Moshe Dayan told the Israeli soldiers: The past generation established Israel within its 1984 borders. We have established Israel within the 1967 borders, and you have to establish a greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates. There are many other statements like this by Golda Meir and others. After reading and listening to all this, can we say that Israel does not want a state from the Nile to the Euphrates? This is what they say and that's how they are bringing up their sons. Nothign will change if some Israelis say that they are not working for the establishment of greater Israel or that they do not want it.

Question: Your Excellency, will you regret Shim'on Peres' departure?

Al-Asad: I do not believe we can regret his departure because Peres' party was the one which occupied the Arab territories in 1967. There is nothing that would make us regret his departure. I never heard Shim'on Peres say that he was against greater Israel.

Question: It seems that there is an important trend in Israeli public opinion in this direction?

Al-Asad: You mean a trend against greater Israel? In any case, we judge things in light of what we see, read, and hear. We know that Peres' party was in office and that it was the one which made the decisions during the 1967, 1956, and 1948 wars.

Question: Your Excellency, you have said many times that peace in this region cannot be established without the attainment of a strategic balance. How do you see the establishment of this straegic balance in the region?

Al-Asad: We are working to achieve this balance. The agressive and expansionist trend which exists in Israel makes us dutybound to affirm the following fact: that peace will be difficult to achieve while Israel feels that it is more capable than the others. The strategic balance we have in mind is a strategic balance between Syria and Israel. This dictates to us to progress quickly in the cultural, economic, and social fields, and consequently in the political and military fields.

Question: Israel has annexed the Golan Heights, how do you explain the absence of incidents on the border between you and Israel?

Al-Asad: We and Israel are enemies, and incidents against Israel take place in one place or another. However, we have our own considerations in regard to such incidents.

Question: Will the hijacking of the Libyan plane that was carrying Syrian officials by Israel lead to retaliatory actions against Israel?

Al-Asad: Perhaps. Of course, it will not be against civilian planes. Any actions will not be against civilian planes or targets. However, there is some sort of daily fighting between us.

Question: Egypt's departure has weakened the Arab world in general and deprived it of the strategic balance you are talking about. Is it possible for you to attend a conference whose agenda includes the restoration of Egypt to the Arab fold?

Al-Asad: Perhaps I will attend such a conference, but I will not support Egypt's return as long as it is tied by Camp David. We believe that Egypt will return at some time without Camp David because the current situation does not satisfy the Egyptian citizen in General. The peace they say that Egypt and Israel have achieved di not end Israel's military growth. Now Israel is stronger than it was when it and Egypt signed the agreement while Egypt became much weaker. Is this in Egypt's interest? Certainly not.

Question: Regarding Iran, for months there have been signs of a change or even tension in relations between Syria and Iran. Iran did not approve the tripartite agreement signed in Damascus, there is a reduction of oil imports, and there is tension between the hizballah and the Syrian forces in Lebanon. Will this alter your relations with Iran?

Al-Asad: Relations between us and Iran are good, and we did not discuss the tripartite agreement with Iran. Regarding Hizballah, it has its own view of the Lebanese government in general. We did not discuss this agreement with it and it did not discuss it with us. We know that it has a very different viewpoint, but it does not present a problem to this agreement.

Question: Therefore, there will be no change in Syrian- Iranian relations in the foreseeable future?

Al-Asad: I said that we have good relations. There are matters between any two countries dealing with work. There are routine matters, bureaucratic matters, but there are no problems worth mentioning.

Question: Is Hizballah's trend not a challenge to the Syrian authorities or policies in Lebanon?

Al-Asad: In any case, we are still very far from the stage of challenge. The most important thing is that this party takes a firm stand against the Israeli occupation. They have resolutely struggled agaisnt the Israeli occupation and this is a point of agreement concerning Syria, concerning the Lebanese and Arab nationalists, and concerning Hizballah also.

Question: Do you believe that Hizballah's struggle against the Israelis in Lebanon might give it an opportunity to be an acceptable Islamic interlocutor with Syria?

Al-Asad: Hizballah does not deal with these issues. Discussing this issue means that we will be discussing a problem that does not exist.

Question: Regarding its recent offensive, Iran has said that it has cut off roads between Iraq and the Gulf states. Can Syria accept this?

Al-Asad: In fact, I do not have enough details about the situation there. As you know, the two sides issue conflicting statements. We follow the situation and try to know the true situation. It is difficult to view the problem between Iraq and Iran from a narrow angle or from a partial incident. The evaluation of the Iraq-Iran war will continue to be incomplete if not viewed comprehensively. This was our opinion from the beginning of the war, and it is still our opinion.

Question: Excuse me for insisting on this question. You have previously said that Syria mediated with Iran in order to prevent the war from spreading outside the current limits. Do you have any intentions to interfere if the war spreads outside its current limits, namely the Gulf states?

Al-Asad: Of course. However, we do not expect it to spread in this direction.

Question: If you would Mr President, let us move to the French hostages issue. Early last January, President Miterrand expected to be able to declare the release of the hostages to the French public. What caused matters to stop, and what happened to postpone a solution to this issue?

Al-Asad: Contacts between us and France on this issue have been active during the past period. More than one contact took place between myself and President Mitterrand. We have exerted efforts and reached an agreement with those concerned in the kidnapping of the hostages. The hostages were supposed to be released a few days after the contact which took place between me and President Miterrand. However, the kidnappers did not abide by the agreement that was reached. It is difficult and impossible to find justifications for this stand. In any case, we condemned their action from the beginning, and we cannot but denounce this action. At any rate, we tried to help release the hostages. Without getting into details, because this might not be in the interest of the hostages themselves, we do not understand why they did not abide by the agreement. However, as a result of this, relations between us and the group which gives shelter to the kidnappers have become bad. The relations will continue to be so, and there will never be normal relations as long as they will continue to hold the hostages or if they will not release them. They know this. Our view is that they caused harm to the hostages and to us through their action and through their refusal to abide by the agreement that was reached. We hope that they will correct this mistake as soon as possible.

Question: The kidnappers or the organizations which protect them consider the guarantees given by France and its president as insufficient. Could you act as guarantor for the kidnappers?

Al-Asad: We have informed them that we would act as guarantor. We believe that President Miterrand has exerted his utmost within the framework of the French laws.

Question: Can you officially say that you can guarantee the French president's stand toward the kidnappers?

Al-Asad: Of course, because any talk I have with and anything I agree on with the French president necessitates that I can guarantee it, and when I and the French president agree on anything, then this means that I can abide by this agreement with the others. Our relations with France are good, and the understanding between us is also good, especially after President Miterrand's visit to Syria. I can see no justification for doubting any agreement between him and me.

Question: Do you know the whereabouts of the hostages?

Al-Asad: Of course not. If you mean the country, then I believe they are in Lebanon.

Question: Will the Syrian Army interfere to liberate the hostages?

Al-Asad: If we know where they are exactly and can guarantee their safety.

Question: Do you believe that the hostages issue has reached a complete dead end and that this issue will last for a long time?

Al-Asad: We hope this will not be so. The issue is being followed up.

Question: Do you have contacts with Iran in this regard?

Al-Asad: Of course, we have discussed this issue. Some sides helped us while others did not. At any rate, our problem is in Lebanon and not in Iran.

Question: Are the demands of the organization which protects the kidnappers material demands, namely exchange of prisoners, or they are merely political demands?

Al-Asad: In fact, the demands are not constant. They are changing and they are being finalized. However, we are not pessimistic. The important thing is to reach a solution. It is true that we are somehow faced by a stalemate in the situation, but it is difficult for the current situation to continue.

Question: Could there be cooperation between Syria and France to combat terrorism?

Al-Asad: Our relations with France are good. However, there is no cooperation in this regard. If any terrorist act is carried out against France, we cannot but be against this act. We have always stressed that terrorism must not be confused with national resistance although this has nothing to do with actions that could take place in France. However, there are attempts to mix terrorism and national resistance or to accuse the national resistance against occupation and colonialism of terrorism. For example, when an operation is carried out against the Israelis in Lebanon, the Israelis described this operation as a terrorist act. We are against terrorism, but we are with any people's resistance against their occupiers. Terrorism is a mercenary action for the sake of personal interests, and sometimes for the sake of killing. However, resistance operations are for the sake of peoples' causes. From this premise, the French people struggled against invasions they were exposed to in the past. If we do not differentiate between terrorism and resistance we will all be terrorists, because anyone who defends his homeland will be a terrorist.

Question: Mr President, in your opinion, what role can France play in the Middle East?

Al-Asad: France can play an important role in achieving the peace process. I have referred to this more than once including during my meeting with President Miterrand. Since 1973, we have been looking at this issue in this manner. The French might not share our viewpoint, or they might not have a great interest in this although I have felt great interest from President Miterrand in this issue.

Question: to end this interview, I would like to ask two small questions: First, how do you feel when you read something in the western press describing you as being the Arabs' Bismark?

Al-Asad: I do not want to comment on a personal subject or on any question of a personal nature. However, I will say that we act in accordance with our convictions, and we want to be a unified Arab people and nation to contribute to human civilization and peace and to live with others in peace.

Question: Mr President, do you have any plans to go to France in the near future? You visited France in 1976, would you like to visit France again?

Al-Asad: Such a visit is not planned at the moment but as France is a friendly country we can visit at any time.

Question: Do you have any plans to visit other western states?

Al-Asad: At the moment, no.

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Peres: PLO, Jordan Not Conducting Negotiations

TA181204 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Feb 86 p 3

[Report by Knesset affairs correspondent Tova Tzimuqi]

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said yesterday in the Knesset that Jordan stopped the negotiations with 'Arafat because the PLO had demanded the establishment of a Palestinian state before starting negotiations with Jordan. "I think it is appropriate to again make this clear, primarily to the residents of the territories so that they do not delude themselves."

Replying to a verbal query by Knesset Member [MK] Mati Peled (Progressive List for Peace), Peres said that the PLO is trying to spread rumors to the effect that its negotiations with Jordan are continuing. According to him, 'Arafat is testing his strength in Egypt after failing in Amman. Peres also said that Jordan presented the PLO with the following conditions: entry into direct negotiations with Israel; a cessation of terrorism; and acceptance of Resolutions 242 and 338. "The PLO did not respond positively to even one of these," he said.

MK Peled said in response that apparently the prime minister has not learned anything or forgotten anything: In his reply today he persisted in his stubborn refusal to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and blatantly denied any progress in the negotiations which are lately being conducted between the PLO and Jordan, Egypt, and the United States.

Reportage, Comment on Activities in Lebanon

Peres Comments on Policy

TA181543 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has said that the IDF is conducting all the necessary searches and voiced the hope that the whereabouts of the missing soldiers will be found shortly. Peres added that he does not see any room for change in Israel's policy toward Lebanon in the wake of yesterday's incident. Let us go over to our broadcasting van and our correspondent Uri Ginossar, who interviewed the prime minister during a tour of Tel Aviv today.

[Begin recording] [Peres] The IDF is conducting the necessary searches and is looking into all the incidents. I hope that we will get on the tracks of the kidnappers and find the whereabouts of the soldiers.

[Ginossar] Can you give us any details about today's incident in the sea [off the Tyre coast in which an IDF soldier was killed]?

[Peres] No, not yet. I would rather have the chief of staff or the IDF spokesman do that.

[Ginossar] In your assessment, is there room for change in Israel's policy toward Lebanon in the wake of yesterday's incident?

[Peres] I do not think so, notwithstanding the fact that security cannot be hermetically foolproof. To my deep regret, incidents may occur. Of course, we should draw the lessons from each incident so as not to repeat past errors.

[Ginossar] Still, what are we going to do to find the two missing soldiers and their kidnappers?

[Peres] I have no statement to make at this moment. I do not think that statements would be beneficial at this time. [end recording]

Rabin: Troops Will Not Remain

TA181831 Jerusalem Domestic Service In English 1800 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Speaking to pool reporters in south Lebanon today, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin made it clear Israel had no intention of keeping the troops in the area once the current search operation ends.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] We'll go back to the system that we employed in the last 8-9 months; that is to say, to maintain the security zone which has proved its effectiveness in the defense of the border of Israel, the settlements and the settlers within Israel.

[Correspondent Alan Ben-'Ami] Massive IDF forces, including tank units, went into Lebanon last night and this morning. Is all this force needed to search for the two missing Israeli soldiers or is the IDF using this opportunity in order to achieve other goals in Lebanon?

[Rabin] No, it's not an opportunity; it is a very severe incident that took place. In response to it, we carry this kind of large-scale search in a relatively large area outside the security zone into Lebanon, and I believe that the forces that are carrying this mission are needed to make sure that the search, the discoveries, will be done in the most effective way with the least casualties as possible.

[Ben-'Ami] How long do you think will the IDF remain in Lebanon?

[Rabin] For a relatively short time. We have no intention of changing our basic policy on which the government decided over a year ago and the IDF carried out 8-9 months ago. [end recording]

General Or on Deployment

TA181157 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1120 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Interview with Major General Ori Or, the commander of the Northern Command, by military correspondent Gay Zohar "beyond the security zone" in Lebanon — on 18 February; recorded]

[Text] [Zohar] Commander of the Northern Command Maj Gen Ori Or, are there already any signs or hints about the tracks of the two kidnapped IDF soldiers?

[Or] There are no signs, and at this time I will not touch on all the searches we are conducting here, [words indistinct] so that many people will not be disappointed. We are here; we went beyond the security zone borders because we believe the people involved in this act came from this area. In the course of the searches we have also discovered large quantities of arms which were directed against Israel and the security zone. If there are signs, we will follow them. However, I cannot point to special signs.

[Zohar] At this stage, have you not received or heard any new demands or a new picture promised by several organizations?

[Or] We have not heard.

[Zohar] There is large-scale IDF activity here, beyond the security zone. Will this turn into a permanent situation now, in order to prevent such incidents in future?

[Or] No. To repeat, and we have discussed this many times: We have been in the security zone for almost a year now and have already carried out several operations beyond the security zone. This operation is a result of an incident which took place yesterday. There have been similar incidents with the same results in the past. Therefore, we will comb the security zone and locate weapons. I have also distributed a leaflet which states that any resident who is not involved in anti-IDF activity can sit quietly at home and cultivate his land. The entire operation is against those elements which harm the IDF or intend to harm the State of Israel. This is the goal. There is no long-term goal to expand the security zone.

[Zohar] Has this extensive activity resulted in any firing incidents in the area?

[Or] A few incidents of light weapons fire here and there, but nothing significant at this stage.

Levi: Greater UNIFIL Efforts

TA181758 Jerusalem Domestic Service In Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] The UN headquarters in southern Lebanon has instructed its officers to make certain that UN officers are present in every settlement whithin UNIFIL's sphere of authority and where the IDF is conducting search operations.

Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi met with UNIFIL commander General William Callaghan today and told him that the IDF believes that UNIFIL should increase its attempts to curb terrorists in Lebanon.

Security establishment sources have told our military correspondent that UNIFIL is not cooperating. The battalion from Ireland is permitting the terrorists to act out of the area under its control.

Levi Briefs Knesset Committee

TA191609 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi today briefed the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Knesset Member [MK] Pesah Grupper of the Likud proposed that the sons of 15 Shi'ite mukhtars be kidnapped, while MK Amnon Linn of the Alignment criticized the fact that Israel does not adopt a stiffer policy toward the Shi'ites. However, most of the committee members came out in total support of the IDF's policy in southern Lebanon. Here is a report by out Knesset correspondent Gil Ronen:

Chief of Staff Lt Gen Moshe Levi briefed the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee about the incident in which two IDF soldiers were kidnapped. All types of very serious action are currently being taken to find their whereabouts, the chief of staff said.

The first speaker in the ensuing debate was Amnon Linn of the Alignment, who leveled harsh criticism at the fact that the IDF had informed the villagers in southern Lebanon that there is no intention to mete out collective punitive measures. If we do not make it plain that we might take action against vast segments of the population, Linn said, we will not be able to get information from them on the whereabouts of the kidnapped solders. This is tantamount to abandoning the soldiers, Linn stated, but later he retracted this remark.

Pesah Grupper suggested that the sons of 15 Shi'ite mukhtars be kidnapped and held as hostages in exchange for our two soldiers. The remarks of Grupper and Linn provoked harsh reaction. The chief of staff explained that the IDF does not use collective punishment and does not abandon anybody.

Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer of the Alignment said: The chief of staff does not need our advice. I want to extend to him my support and congratulate him on his policy. Those who call for exacerbating relations with the Shi'ites in southern Lebanon are talking about bringing hell to the entire area of the northern Galilee, and those who call on Israel to seize hostages do not know what they are talking about; this is a sure recipe for turning the entire area into the largest terrorist base that ever operated against us.

Responding to Grupper's suggestion, Shevah Weiss of the Alignment cynically remarked: Maybe we should kidnap 70 mukhtars. Yosi Sarid of the Citizens' Rights Movement mockingly added: Maybe we should once again go into the whole of Lebanon. Both El'azar Granot of MAPAM and Dan Meridor of the Likud joined in extending their full support for the policy presented by the chief of staff. Shevah Weiss said in summation: It is a political, security, and moral interest to maintain orderly relations with the Shi'ites.

Squad Said Still in South

TA190526 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Officers in the Northern Command believe that the terrorist squad that kidnapped the two soldiers is still in southern Lebanon. Last night, the IDF continued its searches and house-to-house searches were conducted in eight Shi'ite villages. At dawn, large forces began combing open areas, river beds, caves, and orchards. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the Shi'ite inhabitants have not exhibited violent opposition and are generally cooperating. The IDF has asked the villagers to turn the terrorists in. LAW [light antitank weapon] missiles, RPG's, and mortars were discovered in last night's searches.

'Islamic Resistance' Ultimatum

TA190517 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] The names of the two IDF soldiers kidnapped in southern Lebanon 2 days ago are: Yosi Fink, aged 20, from Ra'anana, and Rahamim Alshekh, aged 21, from Rosh Ha'ayin. Both are students at the Qarne Shomron hester yeshiva. Yesterday, the organization called the Islamic Resistance published the names of the soldiers and their identification numbers, and also showed photographs of their personal documents. The organization has threatened to harm one of the kidnapped soldiers if the IDF fails to withdraw from southern Lebanon by 2100. [1900 GMT] The IDF spokesman announced that it has no comment on this declaration.

General Or on Search

TA191148 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Report by Hayim Hecht]

[Excerpts] During the searches conducted last night and this morning, additional large amounts of weapons were found, most of which would have at some point been pointed toward the northern border. Among other things, katyusha rockets, launchers, and mortars were found this morning. There is almost no violent opposition in the Shi'ite villages to the searches, even though the soldiers are stern and strict.

News agencies in Beirut report apparent battles between Lebanese opposition forces and IDF tanks. There have been no such things, said the commander of the Northern Command, Major General Ori Or.

[Begin recording] [Or] There are no clashes involving fire. The searches are being conducted peacefully, and there is nothing that is hindering them. We have no interest in disturbing the residents living in Lebanon, neither in the south nor north of the security zone.

[Hecht] Maj Gen Or, there was an ultimatum which emanated from Beirut. Are we conducting negotiations with someone? Do we have an interlocutor?

[Or] I know nothing about an ultimatum from Beirut. News agencies have published an ultimatum. I do not think that the IDF should conduct negotiations with news agencies. If and when an official body comes and has its say, then someone will be found to talk with it. Reports have been issued through news agencies; the IDF does not conduct negotiations through news agencies or with news agencies. This has nothing to do with the future or the security of the security strip, but rather of northern Israel. These people are not roaming around for nothing. They are searching for two missing people. We want to ensure the safety of the northern settlements. The problem of terrorism in Lebanon has not been solved. Therefore, the IDF is not conducting negotiations with one news agency or another.

[Hecht] Maj Gen Or, do the findings so far reinforce the belief that the IDF soldiers who were kidnapped are still south of the Al-Litani River?

[Or] I do not want to assess the situation. There are many people who are waiting and alert to any news. We are doing all that is possible in certain areas to search for signs, signals, or anything else connected to the missing soldiers. During the search, other things are being uncovered which point to a violation of the security in this region. [end recording]

Shamir: Murderers of Beirut Jews Will Be Punished

TA171421 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] The foreign minister is convinced that the Shi'ite criminals who kidnapped and murdered Jews in Beirut will be caught and severely punished. However, Minister Shamir maintains that we must ask Beirut's Jews why they are still there. According to him, they were given several opportunities to leave. Today it is difficult to leave Beirut, but if the Jews will want to come to Israel, we will find the way to bring them here. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Minister Shamir said this in a talk with Kadoori school students.

Another Beirut Jew Killed

TA190512 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] An extremist Shi'ite organization in Beirut has announced that it has killed another Jew. The organization, called the Oppressed of the World, has announced that it has murdered Eli Halaq, aged 52, a physician and the vice president of the Jewish community in Beirut. It was reported that his body will only be handed over after the IDF units withdraw from Lebanon and the Shi'ite prisoners held by Israel are released. The announcement was made to *AL-NAHAR*.

This organization had already killed three other Jews, and is presently holding captive another four: the president of the Jewish community, Yitzhaq Sason; Eli Sarur; and Yehuda and Yosef (Benetti).

16 Feb Cabinet Session Marked by 'Squabbling'

TA161519 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] The Cabinet session today was vociferous and full of squabbling. Cabinet Secretary Dr Yosi Beilin announced that contrary to usual practice, he will not brief reporters today due to the nature of the debate. One such verbal clash developed between Ministers Moda'i and Shahal. Minister Mordekhay Gur tried to settle the argument, but Yitzhaq Moda'i silenced him with very harsh words. The energy minister complained that the Treasury has frozen his ministry's budget and has been preventing the channeling of funds for new projects. The government decided to pass the issue to a ministerial committee, which will rule on whether the finance minister has the authority to withhold funds allotted to a ministry.

The Cabinet approved the extension of the ad hoc decision to continue paying allowances for another 3 months. This means that allowances for the needy, disabled, senior citizens, and widows will not be cut, as the Treasury had demanded.

Peres on Economic Growth, Cabinet

TA162033 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Interview with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by David Gilbo'a in the prime minister's office on 16 February — videotaped]

[Text][Gilbo'a] Mr Prime Minister, the Likud maintains that the Alignment has in fact decided to disband the government, and that since the attempt to bring this about over political issues failed, it is now determined to bring about a crisis over economic issues.

[Peres] The Likud handled the economy for 7 years, and look where it got us. We have now put the economy back on the right track by forming two coalitions: One is an economic coalition involving the Histadrut, the industrialists, and the government; and the second is in terms of parties. If anyone conducts economic affairs according to personal or partisan guidelines and introduces political overtones into economic matters, we will not be able to conduct economic affairs any longer.

[Gilbo'a] Who conducts the economy according to partisan guidelines?

[Peres] I do not like the charges being voiced by the Likud and the finance minister. One legitimate argument could be over what the next step should be. Even in the previous steps the finance minister often had misgivings. Therefore, I suggest that the argument focus on economic matters and not touch on partisan affairs. When it comes to parties, I believe the Likud has very good reason to maintain a low profile in this respect.

[Gilbo'a] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i pleaded with you last week: Let me pursue the economic program. Does Mr Moda'i actually fear that you intend to interfere with his plan?

[Peres] If you will forgive me, there has never been a finance minister who has enjoyed and been given — by me included — such leeway to operate as Mr Moda'i. If he wants to work, he will be granted every opportunity to do so; if he chooses to deal with politics, this is not work, it is a different matter.

[Gilbo'a] You have recently talked about the stage of growth, and in this you differ with Mr Moda'i. Is not the intention really to protect Histadrut-owned plants, and primarily Solel Boneh [construction company]?

[Peres] First of all, what is wrong with defending Histadrut-owned plants? But we do not mean only Histadrut-owned plants, but also Mr Shiff's hotel businesses. I do not want unemployment to run rampant in Israel, but since you asked it seems I must explain myself, because inaccuracies are constantly being reported and published. I do not propose supplementing the state budget; nor do I propose printing money. What I am proposing is what the governor of the Bank of Israel has also been supporting: We have $4 billion in savings, and we want to allow the diversion of 10 percent of this, in the form of bonds, for investment in industry. Second, we have saved money thanks to the drop in oil prices, and I am suggesting that this be invested in the economy: Part of the savings should be returned to the citizens, and part should be invested in the economy. I propose that we start raising funds for growth, and I already started discussing this with the Americans during my last trip to the United States. And I am not necessarily referring to money; otherwise we will be only marking time, or rather even beginning to regress.

[Gilbo'a] Mr Peres, finally, at today's Cabinet session harsh exchanges were heard, unprecedented in the annals of the government you head. Is today the beginning of the end of the national unity government?

[Peres] I will not allow another session like today's to take place. It is unacceptable. There is a lot of personal tension because the ministers are burdened with a heavy yoke. They are the ones who must suffer great cuts. Naturally, there is also a dispute with the Treasury. Recently a political overtone has also been introduced, but not by me and I hope also not by my colleagues. If there is an argument, let us argue; but the political accusations came from the other side, God only knows why. It is impossible to claim that the goal of the rotation is the prime suspect; one must keep his suspicions to himself. At the Cabinet table, the argument must be dignified and devoid of a partisan or personal overtone.

Do you know that all those who yesterday opposed the economic program suddenly became its great defenders?

[Gilbo'a] If such a scene recurs at the next Cabinet session, what then?

[Peres] Then not only I, but the Cabinet will be faced with an extremely difficult problem. Furthermore, I am convinced that no Cabinet member wants this scene to repeat itself.

[Gilbo'a] Does this indicate a threat that you will resign from the premiership if this occurs?

[Peres] I am not threatening anything except that another session like this — in both style and content — will not take place, and that I will do everything in my power to see that future sessions are not like this. This does not include any further threat.

[Gilbo'a] Thank you very much, Mr Prime Minister.

[Peres] Thank you.

Knesset Votes Down MAPAM No-Confidence Motion

TA181621 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] A few minutes ago the Knesset voted down MAPAM's motion of no-confidence in the government due to the situation in Israel's Shipyards. Knesset Members Yisra'el Qeysar of the Alignment and Ya'aqov Shamay of the Likud joined the coalition [as heard] factions in their vote of no-confidence.

Consumer Price Index Registers 1.3 Percent Drop

TA141223 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Last month's consumer price index dropped by 1.3 percent, a drop that has not been registered in over 13 and 1/2 years and which has never been registered in the month of January since the state was first established. Excluding fruit and vegetables, the index dropped by 2.2 percent. The prices of fruit and vegetables went up by nearly 11 percent, but the cost of housing went down by approximately 10 percent, and the cost of clothing and footwear also dropped by nearly 3 percent due to the end-of-season sales. Over the past 3 months, the consumer price index rose by 0.4 percent.

Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that since January, the index has been computed according to a different method. It was decided that last year's annual average is the 100 point mark, making last month's index 134.5 points. According to the new system, the relative weight given the various components is different, but this has not substantially affected the index rate.

The prime minister said that the index reflects the attainment of stability in the market, and this is a precondition for the achievement of the main goal — growth. The finance minister said that he was not surprised by the negative index, and therefore still believes that the economic program must be pursued and not amended, and accelerated growth in Israel should not be launched at the moment. He believes there are still no grounds to speak of the economic program as a complete success. Such a success can only be declared in an advanced stage of growth, which will not happen in the near future.

The Histadrut secretary general believes that the January index drop heralds, for the first time, a reduction in prices, although one cannot tell whether or not this is going to be a permanent trend. He told our correspondent Moshe Nestelbaum that the main problem the Histadrut must now tackle is the problem of unemployment.

Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon is satisfied with the index rate, and thinks that it expresses the price policy his ministry has adopted and indicates that the efforts are yielding good results.

The industrialists have said that although the price controls are gradually being lifted, the industrial index has not changed. Industrialist Amnon Tiberg told our correspondent Tzahi Noga that this proves that it is necessary to pursue the policy of price deregulation.

Sanyurah Says PLO Supports Resolutions 242, 338

TA141230 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 14 Feb 86 p 2

[Report by the party affairs correspondent]

[Text] "The PLO supports all the UN resolutions connected with the Palestinian problem, including Resolutions 242 and 338." This was said yesterday by Hana Sanyurah, the editor of *AL-FAJR*, in a talk with MAPAM Secretary General El'azar Granot, who visited the paper's editorial board.

Sanyurah recently returned from Amman where he held talks with Yasir 'Arafat and other senior Palestinian officials. Knesset Member Granot stressed MAPAM's support for mutual recognition and for tha right of the Jewish people and the Palestinian people to self-determination. He called for a complete truce between the two sides — on a mutual basis — for at least 6 months in order to enable negotiations to begin.

Latif Dori, MAPAM's coordinator of Arab affairs, also participated in the meeting.

ALGERIA

Bendjedid Announces Government Appointments

LD182139 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN party, today made new appointments in the government. They included the following:

Brother Boualam Baki as the minister of religious affairs in lieu of brother Abdelrrahmane Chibane, who was called for other duties; Brother Mohamed Cherif Kharroubi as the minister of justice; Sister Zhor Ounissi as the minister of national education; Brother Faysal Boudraa as the minister of heavy industries in lieu of brother Salim Saadi, who was called for other duties.

The post of the deputy minister in charge of mechanical, electric, and electronic industries was abolished, together with the post of deputy minister in charge of construction materials and the post of deputy minister in charge of sports.

Brothers Nouraddine Harbi, Hocine Hadj, Mohamed Arezgui Ieli and Zineddine Chekfali were called for other duties.

President Chadli Bendjedid also made the following appointments: Brother Mohamed Aberkane as deputy minister attached to the minister of foreign affairs in charge of cooperation; Brother Mohamed Mazouni as deputy minister attached to the minister of agriculture and fishing in charge of fishing; Brother Yasine Fergueni as deputy minister attached to the minister of energy, chemical and petrochemical industries in charge of chemical and petrochemical industries; Sister Leila Tayeb as deputy minister attached to the minister of national education in charge of secondary and technical education; Brother Aissa Abdellaoui as deputy minister attached to the minister of irrigation, environment and forestry in charge of invironment and forestry.

President Chadli Bendjedid today also made some appointments at the Presidency, according to which he has appointed Larbi Belkhire as director of the Presidential Office; Mouloud Hamrouche, secretary general at the Presidency; and Brother Mohamed Saleh Mouhamdi, secretary general for the government.

President Chadli Bendjedid today also issued a decision for the reshaping of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Party Central Committee. The Permament Secretariat is to include, in addition to the central Disciplinary Committee chaired by Brother Mohamed Abada and the Central Committee of Finance and Control chaired by Brother Saleh Halouachi, councils, sectors and branches:

The councils are: The Higher Council for Youth; the Higher Council for the National Language; the Higher Council for Friendship and Solidarity with the Peoples.

The sections are: the Sector for Organization and People's Assemblies; the Sector of the Mass Organizations and Voluntary Work; the Sector of Information, Culture, and Training, the Sector of Economic and Social Affairs; the Sector of Foreign Relations.

The President of Republic and secretary general of the FLN Party has appointed Brothers Abdelkarime (?Souiti) in charge of the Higher Council for Youth; Mouloud Kacem Nait Benkacem in charge of the Higher Council for the National Language, and Sadek Zouaten in charge of the Council for Friendship and Solidarity with the People; Brothers Salah Goudjil in charge of the Sector for Organization and People's Assemblies; Mohamed Sebaa in charge of the sector of Mass Organizations and Voluntary Work; Bachir Khaldoun in charge of the Sector of Information, Culture and Training; Ahmed Ali Ghouzali in charge of the Sector of Economic and Social Affairs, and Abderrazak Bouhara in charge of the Sector of Foreign Relations.

Brothers Mohamed Yazid said Ait Massoudane, Boucenane Boumendjeule, Boualem Dalouci, Lazhari Choureite, Mimoune Ferhat, and Taher Hanafi have all been assigned to other duties.

President Receives French, Iranian Foreign Ministers

LD181907 Algiers Domestic Service in French
1830 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid today addressed a message of congratulations to Mario Soares on his election as president of the Republic of Portugal. The head of state also received French External Relations Minister Roland Dumas, who conveyed to him a message from President Mitterrand. Finally, President Chadli Bendjedid received the Iranian foreign affairs and oil ministers.

LIBYA

Military Maneuvers Move Toward Completion

LD181903 Tripoli JANA in English 1802 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Athani, Feb.18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Libyan Arab air, naval and air defence forces, for the tenth consecutive day today, continued their manoeuvres using live ammunition over the Mediterranean sea outside the Libyan Arab Gulf of Sidra.

On 8 February the air, naval and air defence forces staged their live ammuntion manoeuvres in the same place.

To Conclude Late 19 Feb

LD190736 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Excerpts] 19 Feb (JANA) — JANA has learned that the exercises being carried out by the air, naval and air defenses of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah with live ammunition in the high seas of the Mediterranean and outside the Gulf of Sidra will end today at midnight.

Al-Qadhdhafi, King Fahd Discuss Oil Crisis

LD182153 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2021 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] This evening a telephone contact took place between the brother leader of the revoluiton and King Fahd. It dealt with the acute crisis which the oil market is experiencing and the recent serious drop in oil prices.

The developments in the oil market confirm that the continuation of this crisis in its present state will have serious repercussions on the oil-producing countries. Even political relations may be affected among these states if OPEC member-states fail to reach an agreement that guarantees fair prices to enable them to safeguard their rights and interests, and the unity of its members.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives U.S. Pro-Libyan Delegation

LD171944 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1905 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Feb (JANA) — This afternoon the brother leader of the revolution received a U.S. delegation which represents 28 U.S. popular and political organizations and who have decided to challenge the order which Reagan issued forbidding U.S. citizens to travel to Libya. These organizations held a news conference in which they declared their challenge to this order and they threatened to turn the United States into a desolate and devasted place if anyone of them is harmed by the U.S. Administration because they are supported by 69 million U.S. citizens who share these convictions. They emphasized that their presence in the Jamahiriyah comes also as an expression of their support and backing for the Libyan Arab people its revolution, and its struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and racism.

Demonstration Against French 'Intervention' in Chad

LD181354 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Voice of the Revolutionary Committees]

[Text] This morning Tripoli witnessed a big march of anger and denunciation by the forces of the Chadian revolution in the Jamahiriyah in protest against the French armed intervention in Chad. The march advanced on the French Embassy to declare the Chadian masses' condemnation and denunciation of the unjust attack by French aircraft last Sunday on Ouadi Doum civilian airport situated in the liberated part of Chad, controlled by the Transitional Government of National Unity and used for receiving aid for famine victims in northern Chad.

Chad Crisis Part of French Colonialist Plans

LD181527 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 18 Feb 86

[From the "Spotlights" program]

[Excerpts] The French Government has started escalating its military presence in Chad. This is in the context of a colonialist plan aimed at lighting the fuse of civil war again following the French aircraft's raid on a civilian airport used for receiving aid supplies for famine victims in northern Chad. We present the following report on this subject:

The current crisis in Chad constitutes the first serious test, in a relatively wider scope, of French colonialist plans aimed at pushing forth its military forces designated for intervention in various parts of the world, especially those parts situated outside the European battlefield. Despite the fact that France has sent units of its armed forces to regions outside Europe, particular Africa, on numerous occasions, the situation in Chad seems more than ever before to be destined to hold the possibility of all out military confrontation in which French forces would be a party. The direct cause of this serious escalation is direct intervention in other countries' internal affairs.

The French intervention in Chad comes as part of a new colonialist plan in the African Continent starting from Chadian territories to consolidate its domination over this country which it had dominated over a period of 25 years.

JANA: U.S. Manipulating France in Chad Intervention

LD171509 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Feb (JANA) — Under the title "Why Now Precisely?", the weekly *AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR* published by the Revolutionary Committees, wrote a leading article in which it dealt with the developments in Chad.

The newspaper wonders about the causes for the French Government's direct interference in Chadian affairs, and asks did the French government choose these circumstances and, if so, why?

The newspaper also said that the French parliamentary election campaign is about to start soon and whenever this happens, those who struggle for power seek to fill their ballot boxes through events at home and abroad. Africa has always been a target of this ploy and the instrument for those who seek power through ballots.

However, the fact that the French Government chooses this time and these circumstances raises more than one question.

What arouses our curiosity is, how did coordination with America take place? Africa cannot be a pawn in a power struggle between Westerners, who are alien to africa. This would constitute as great an insult to the Africans as American hegemony over France causes to the French nation, a nation with a history and civilization dating back before America was born.

The newspaper added "We, as Arab Africans, do not accept any humiliation by the strangers to great Africa, and, as Arabs, we are linked with the African peoples by geographic, historic, and cultural relations. We do not accept any humiliation against Africa and its peoples. France and others should look for ballot papers inside their countries, and should solve their own fight and their own problems, such as unemployment and the complicated and lasting economic crises which are the result of the capitalist and bourgeois system. However, what incites us and incites many others with us is: Why choose Chad? The Americans were defeated before they entered shooting war with us. If they had entered such a war, their defeat would have been of fatal consequences to them, surpassing their defeats in Vietnam and Lebanon. We are ready to deal America blows until it dips its head between its feet."

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR further said that the American activity in Chad is a result of the loss and defeat it suffered at sea when it wanted to impose a blockade on Libya in the framework of an old-new plan for blockading the Jamahiriyah by transforming all the governments in neighboring countries and placing them in the American orbit. This is impossible and America will see its new defeat as it did previously. France is not America; this is what we believe; and we do not believe that France will be a Philipines, the country which has been placed in the American orbit. However, what is happening now says that France is the servant of America in Africa because it chose Chad, a sensitive region as far as we are concerned. We are linked with its peoples by geographic, historic, and cultural, ties more than to any other African country. Added to this is the fact that the security of Chad is part of the security of the Jamahiriyah. What proves that France has entered the American service is the timing of the arrival of French military equipment with the arrival of the French defense minister in Chad and the placing of French forces in a number of African countries on alert, and with the sending of American military equipment to the rebel Hissene Habre.

If the reason for all this is the presence of the American hand in the French elections, it does not befit France that American interferes in its internal affairs. We believe that the French do not accept a humiliation like this, just as they did not accept the Washington's anxiety regarding the appointment of communist ministers in the French Government because this was considered as interference in the internal affiars of France. However, if the reason is that France offers its service to America in the framework of the confrontation between us and America, then France has chosen to be placed in the American orbit and this situation does not benefit France; the French do not accept a serious humiliation such as this.

The newspaper emphasized that we are for Africa to solve its pending problems by itself and for the strangers to lift their hands off this continent or for this continent will burn the strange hands.

France should realize that our stand is that "if they return we will return," and that we do not accept any blockade on us and that we will bury the invaders in Chad. France should regain its self-respect and refuse the American humiliation, and France should not be for the non-French, just as Africa is not for the non-Africans.

In conclusion, the newspaper said that the choice by France of these circumstances and this place is not to its benefit but will be counter to its interest, and we warn it about two humiliations at the same time - the American humiliation and the humiliation of the inevitable defeat before the African countries. As for America, it knows us very well, and if it insists on taking a slap in the face, we are ready to give it one and the days will show what we mean.

VOGAH on U.S., French 'Interference' in Chad

LD181025 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0215 GMT 18 Feb 86

[From "The Political Dossier" program]

[Excerpts] Concerning the overt French-U.S. intervention in Chad, we have this to say: The U.S.-French stances on various world problems affirm that ethics do not govern imperialist-colonialist attitudes toward peoples, and that these attitudes are governed and guided by the mania for power, false megalomania and an overwhelming desire to dominate the world and subjugate it to imperialist-colonialist influence. This is obvious from their positions on various world issues.

Within the context of this topsy-turvy logic U.S. imperialism and the French Government have rushed to interfere in the affairs of the Chadian people despite the vast distances between Chad and both the United States and France — a fact that rebuts U.S. and French claims to the effect that Chad's security is of concern to the United States and France, and that the events in Chad jeopardize the security of these two countries.

We wonder: How can the Chadian people's struggle for their right to self-determination constitute an act of terrorism and rebellion? How can this struggle pose a threat to U.S. and French security? Is Chad an American state or a French town? What about the U.S. and French allegations about their support for the peoples' right to self-determination and noninterference in their internal affairs and conflicts? What about French pledges of noninterference in the internal conflict in Chad and of refraining to supply arms to either of the warring sides?

French interference in Chad's internal affairs and the French aggression against the Chadian people in addition to U.S. military support for Habre rebut all these U.S. and French allegations and the slogans they raise to mislead and deceive the peoples. For while they raise the slogans of freedom and noninterference in the affairs of people, we see them interfering with their military forces to repress the peoples and to install and protect the agents from the wrath and rage of the masses.

The French have brought Habre and imposed him on Chad by military force. They are the ones who are preventing the Chadian people from determining their own fate. Together with the imperialist and reactionary circles, the French describe the struggling Chadian people's detachments as rebels. But by this description they are interfering and openly violating the sanctity of the Chadian people's affairs and are aligning themselves openly on the side of Habre against the Chadian people.

Why are the revolutonary Chadian detachments described as rebels, while the rebels in Nicaragua are described as revolutionaries? What criteria do the French colonialists and the United States use in the certificates they issue classifying people as rebels and revolutionaries? If the rebels of Nicaragua are revolutionaries from among the Nicaraguan people in the view of imperialist circles, then the revolutionaries of Chad whom the imperialist circles call rebels are also part of the Chadian people. Hence all the pretexts that the imperialist circles use to justify their interference in Chad collapse and the falsehood of their attitudes toward the Chadian people is laid bare. Consequently, the imperialist circles should look for other pretexts to justify their animosity toward the Chadian and African peoples.

Tripoli Cites GUNT Minister on 'Self-Defense' in Chad

LD181426 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1244 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Voice of the Revolutionary Committees]

[Text] The Voice of Greater Arab Homeland, the Voice of the Revolutionary Committees, has met with Najija, minister of finance and economy of the Transitional Government of National Unity [GUNT] and its official spokesman.

At the beginning of the interview he spoke of the current situation in Chad and of the position of GUNT led by Goukouni Oueddei. He said: Undoubtedly, you are aware that in accordance with the agreement concluded at Contonou in December a meeting took place at Bardai, during which the higher council of the revolution defined its future political line. Several important decisions were also adopted, including one providing for the need for work to find a solution to the tragedy of the Chadian people. In accordance with this, the GUNT sent several delegations to numerous countries in Africa and Europe to expound views of GUNT led by Goukouni Oueddei concerning the Chadian problem and the ways and means that should be sought for the establishment of peace in this country, which has been devastated by 20 years of war.

It was surprising that while these efforts were being made the GUNT forces were exposed to aggression by the agent forces led by Habre on 9 February 1986. Two divisions of the agent forces advanced on our positions. In a legitimate act of self-defense our forces began by countering the agent forces and then routed them and chased them back to their positions in Oum Chalouba, and Kouba Olanga and were forced out of these two positions. We exercised our right to chase these forces. Now our forces, that is, the forces of GUNT, are militarily in control of (Belgin), Arada, Oum Chalouba, Kelete, Kouba Olanga, Rig-rig, Ziguey and Nokoui. It was reported today that the military camps at (Oum Zouher), Gereda, Erba and Mao have also joined GUNT.

Yesterday we were surprised to see the French Air Force attack our positions at Ouadi Doum, which is inside the territories under the control of GUNT. We consider this an act of premeditated aggression by an outside force, a quarter against which GUNT has not in principle declared war. We have been astounded by the French Government's alignment with and participation in and support for the armed rebellion against the legitimate Chadian Government of Goukouni Oueddei. What has taken place is an act of direct aggression by the French forces against GUNT, for we know that Hissein Habre has no Jaguar planes nor pilots who could carry out such a raid.

Asked about retaliation by GUNT against Ndjamena Airport, he said: We represent legitimacy in Chad. We are the legitimate government in Chad. Thus we have the right to retaliate. We also have the right to seek the help of any fraternal or friendly country which can help us in defending the Chadian people. In fact, GUNT led by Goukouni Oueddei has fighter planes. To confirm this fact, a team of foreign journalists visited the regions under GUNT's control where they saw on the spot and verified the actual presence of Chadian fighter planes piloted by Chadian pilots. The testimony of these journalists is there, as they have photographed these planes and pilots. It is our right to use these planes to defend ourselves and to attack the rear bases of Hissein Habre's forces. For we believe that Hissein Habre has been receiving reinforcements at Ndjamena from the imperialist countries which support him.

In reply to a question about the scope of U.S. and French interference in the problems, internal problems, of an African country, the GUNT official spokesman said: As you know, the Ndjamena clique represents the Chadian wing of world imperialism. In this capacity, the Americans and the French can only come to the defense of those who help to consolidate the domination of the African people, particularly the Chadian people. This is part of the imperialist and neocolonialist designs.

Tripoli cites GUNT Spokesman Condemning French Raid

LD181322 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Voice of the Revolutionary Committees]

[Text] In an exclusive statement today to the political affairs editor of Voice of Greater Arab Homeland [VOGAH] the official spokesman of the Chadian Transitional Government of National Unity [GUNT] led by Goukouni Oueddei, stressed that GUNT forces are now in full control of the towns of (Biltil), Arada, (Ragrik), Oum Chalouba, Kouba Olanga, (Telait), Zigey, and Nokoui. He added that the joining of (Um Zuwayr) and Mao military camps with the GUNT forces has been reported.

He condemned the crime committed by the French Government by raiding Ouadi Doum Airport. He said it was an attack supported by foreign forces that have nothing to do with Chad and its people's problems.

In his statement today to VOGAH he stressed that GUNT has fighter planes and Chadian pilots, saying: On the basis of protecting our national territory, we exercised our right to attack the rear bases of the agent Habre forces and completely destroyed Ndjamena Airport. We believe that the rebel Habre is receiving reinforcements at Ndjamena Airport from imperialist countries hostile to the Chadian people which fuels the continuing of the civil war. He blamed France for escalating this war and its disastrous consequences for Africa, especially the pain, sacrifices and losses inflicted on the Chadian people.

African Arab Union Committee Ends Meeting

LD182208 Tripoli JANA in English 1807 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Athani 7, Feb. 18, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY — Yesterday the committee for the unionist development plan, formed by the Economic Council of the Arab-African Union (AAU), concluded its meetings in Tripoli. During its meetings, the committee studied the overall framework of the unionist development plan. In this respect it worked out recommendations for the Permanent Secretariat to be presented to the Economic Council. It also reviewed the trade-exchange papers between the two countries of the union.

MOROCCO

Mauritanian President Arrives for Talks

LD181342 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Mauritanian President Colonel Maayouia Sidi Ahmed Ould Taya, this morning arrived aboard a special plane at El Manara airport in Marrakech. He was welcomed at the airport by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed; Driss Basri, the minister of interior and information, Ahmed Reda Guedira the adviser to his majesty the king; the governor of the province and some local officials. The Mauritanian president is accompanied by the minister of health and by the director of the Presidential Office.

Meets With King

LD!82209 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II today received at the royal palace in Marrakech the president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritanian, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, who arrived in Marrakech this morning. The meeting was attended by his royal highness the Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed.

His majesty the king hosted a luncheon banquet in honor of the Mauritanian head of state attended by his royal highness the Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, the speaker of the House of Representatives, Ahmed 'Uthman, few member of the government, the king's advisers, and members of the Mauritanian delegation.

Following that the Mauritanian President left Merrakech for his country. He was seen off by his majesty King Hassan II, who was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Sidi Mohamed. He was also seen off by the speaker of the house of representatives, few members of the government, the king's advisers, the governor of Merrakech, and the officials of the local authorities.

TANZANIA

Prime Minister Urges 'Total Commitment' To Namibia

EA152326 Dar Es Salaam External Service in English 1600 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Dar es Salaam: The prime minister and the first vice-president, Ndugu Joseph Warioba, has called on African countries to reassess the situation in southern Africa and pronounce total commitment to armed struggle for the independence in Namibia. Ndugu Warioba said this today when he met the president of the SWAPO, Ndugu Sam Numoma, at his office in Dar es Salaam.

Ndugu Warioba said the situation in southern Africa was critical and he called for a reassessment and full commitment on the liberation war. He called on the frontline states to seriously look into the affair and state categorically its commitment to the armed struggle for the independence of Namibia.

Mr Nujoma told the premier that south African forces have increased atrocities to civilians in Namibia. The SWAPO president called on African countries to support UN secretary general in his efforts to resolve the Namibian question by scrupulous implementation of the UN Resolution 435.

Mr Nujoma, accompanied by SWAPO's chief representative in Tanzania, Ndugu Nentumbo Ndaitwa, had called on the premier to brief him on the current situation in Namibia.

UGANDA

Retreating Soldiers Kill Civilians, Raid Cattle

EA191105 Nairobi THE STANDARD in English 19 Feb 86 p 1

[Unidentified correspondent report from Kampala]

[Excerpt] Basilio Okello soldiers are reported to be fleeing across the semi-desert Karamojong district, raiding cattle and killing civilians.

Refugees arriving in soroti yesterday said at least seven people were shot dead, and that Basilion Okello's men were sweeping through villages burning down homes. They said the soldiers were taking the cattle towards Abim and Labwor in western Karamoja. Others were driving the cattle through Orungo, Amuria and Obalanga in north-eastern Teso.

The displaced people said the cattle raids were being organised by Lt. Col. Kilama and Capt Odora. Shortly before Mbale and Soroti towns fell to the NRA [National ResistanceArmy] the two officers were said to have used a helicopter in their cattle raids. The latest cattle rustling took place on Monday [17 Feb] morning at Amuria where two people were shot dead and several others injured.

The road to Moroto from Soroti is completely deserted and there are unconfirmed reports that one of the bridges on the road was blown up by Okello's troops.

It is not yet known when the NRA will march towards Moroto. However, more and more trucks are daily ferrying hundreds of NRA fighters to Soroti.

Other sources said in Soroti that the NRA was nowhere near Lira, the home town of Milton Obote. A source within the NRA forces said they were going to attack Lira from all directions. some 10,000 NRA fighters are now camped 37 km on the Soroti-Lira road.

The acting chief administrative secretary of Dr Obote's Uganda Peoples Congress (UPC), Prof Kagyenda Atwoki, has charged that prominent officials and members of his party had been arrested and are being detained without trial.

In a statement to the press, Kagyenda Atwoki, a former don at Makerere University, urged President Museveni to release those arrested or take them to court. he said the UPC members were being held at Kampala's central police station, some for up to two weeks.

Those under detention included: mr Sezibwa Tayali, a UPC supporter from Luwero district; Mr Aston Mugowa, the vice-chairman for UPC Kampala car park and Chairman of several cooperatives; Stephen Kalenzi; Kyawemagezi; A. Nyombi; G.W. Ssali; Hassan Wasswa; C.P. Otim; Godfrey Nzimbe; and Ben Mulasa.

Prof Atwoki charged that the supporters had been arrested by NRA soldiers.

Editorial Calls on Uganda to Welcome Okello Home

EA161724 Nairobi SUNDAY NATION in English 16 Feb 86 p 6

[Editorial: "Tito Okello Should be Allowed Back Home"]

[Text] By all accounts, General Tito Okello is a very gentle human being. Yet, during his short term as head of state, Uganda continued to be characterised by the same chaos and carnage into which the long years of tyranny under Idi Amin Dada had plunged the country.

The probably reason is that the soldiers who overthrew the civilian government of President Milton Obote were the very same unruly individuals who had maintained Uganda as a hecatomb throughout President Obote's second bash at government. They had always been a ragtag army ever since they were hastily put together in 1978 with the sole purpose of overthrowing Idi Amin. Young, hungary and ill remunerated, as soon as they had carried the victory they proceeded to unleash a reign of terror against the people in order to surfeit purely personal interests.

Probably the greatest weakness of that army — of some other African armies as well — was that it had no social motivation. It had not had anything like enough time to imbue itself with the spirit of selfless dedication and service to society.

And none of the successive governments — those of Yusuf Lule, Godfrey Binaisa, Paul Muwanga and Milton Obote — took any conscious step to inculcate in the Army any disciplining sense of purpose, with the result that they continued robbing the people, massacring them at any sign of protest.

There is some evidence that President Obote, while appealing aloud for discipline, often tried to use the army for his own personal purposes. It is reported that it was an attempt to turn it into a personal army, led by members of his own filial clan, that earned him last year's coup.

It is also reported that General Okello himself may not have been the chief instigator of the coup, that it was the work of a scantily educated hothead called Basilio Olara Okello, and that after the coup the NCO's latched on to Tito only because he was the only one among them with anything approaching national stature.

What we know for sure is that Tito Okello never ceased to be impressed by the apparent insuperability of the problems thrust upon him. The fact that the soldiers continued to commit atrocities always filled him with chagrin. But what made him even sadder was that he soon found out that he was personally incapable of ordering a stop to the carnage.

Even before he took power several weeks ago, President Yoweri Museveni himself testified many times that General Tito Okello was a peaceable man who wanted the Nairobi peace Treaty of last year to be implemented, but whose efforts were always being thwarted by his generals and rank and file.

It was instructive that after his overthrow, he kept quiet and did not engage in the bravado characteristic of overthrown potentates. It is reported that he slipped into the Sudan with a following of only eight loyal soldiers and immediately undertook not to abuse Sudanese hospitality by trying to organise an insurgency activity against the Museveni regime.

The other day, a team sent by President Museveni to the Sudan returned with an appeal from Tito Okello that he should be left alone, that nobody should try to involve him an any attempt at rebellion against the Museveni government. He said he wanted to return home to play his part in build a new Uganda.

General Okello, reportedly, is not endowed with very many intellectual resources. But he is an extremely experienced soldier, commanding much respect, high and low, not only throughout Uganda but also in neighboring countries. We are certain that he can contribute much to the Museveni system. For this reason, we are glad that President Museveni has responded to the appeal — upheld by our own President Moi — and is willing to welcome the general back home.

CHAD

Habre Sends Letter to OAU Chairman on Libya Issue

AB191041 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] The situation created by Libya is preoccupying. It is so preoccupying that the president of the Republic himself has sent a letter in this connection to the current OAU chairman, Abdou Diouf. In the letter, the head of state draws the attention of the pan-African organization and its chairman to the dramatic was situation that the terrorist Tripoli regime has imposed on Chad. The wait-and-see attitude of the international community in the face of Libya's challenge encourages the terrorist Tripoli regime to step up its terrorist and aggressive acts of destabilization in the world and particularly in Chad, thus posing a constant threat to peace and world security, in our subregion and in the world.

Acting with impunity, the president of the Republic further says in his letter to the OAU chairman, Al-Qadhdhafi's regime is pursuing an escalation of the situation in northern Chad. This new aggression against Chad has been carefully prepared and is aimed at foiling the fruitful efforts of countries friendly to Chad, which resulted in the Libreville accords on national reconciliation. Through its action, the Tripoli regime hopes to be able to complete its expansionist enterprise in Chad, about half of whose territory is under occupation in flagrant violation of the OAU and UN Charters.

In the face of the very situation caused by Libya, the president goes on to say in the letter, the Chadian Government urgently appeals to all member-states to use their power so that the inalienable rights of the Chadian people will be respected by the Tripoli terrorist, fascist, and expansionist regime.

A copy of the president's letter was sent to the president of the UN Security Council by the secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, Hamed Korom, who has justified to the Chadian people the French military assistance sought by Chad to repulse Libya's aggression in conformity to France's commitments toward Chad. The assistance was also sought in the face of the unjustified and unprovoked military aggression of the Tripoli regime against Chad. Hamed Korom informed the president of the Security Council about the destruction by the French Air Force of the Ouadi Doum airfield inside the Chadian territory, which served as a springboard for Libya's military operations against Chad, about the troops captured by the Chadian National Armed Forces, and the bombing of Ndjamena airport as evidence in Chad's case against Libya.

Officials To Visit Foreign Countries, Convey Messages

AB190928 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] The president of the Republic and founding chairman of the National Union for Independence and Revolution [UNIR], who remains clear-headed in the face of the repeated aggressions of the Libyan regular troops against our people and who has an acute sense of cooperation, good-neighborliness, dialogue, and permanent consultations between our ccountry and other friendly and brotherly African countries, has sent many emissaries with messages to several African capitals.

In this line, Hamed Korom, member of the Central Committee and secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, will visit Algiers, Tunis, and Addis Ababa. Similarly, Mahamat Nouri, member of the UNIR Central Committee, will visit Cairo and Khartoum, while Taher Guinassou, member of the Central Committee and minister of animal husbandary and water resources is going to convey messages from the president of the Republic to the Niger president and to King Hassan II. Moussa Seif Adoum and (Abdul) Salim, — both Central Committee members — minister of economy and commerce and the president's special adviser respectively in this order will visit Yaounde and Lagos.

French Military Disposition Near Completion

AB181729 Paris AFP in French 1529 GMT 18 Feb 86

[By AFP special correspondent Jean-Claude Chapon]

[Text] Ndjamena, 18 Feb (AFP) — The disposition of the French military force in Chad will be completed this evening and the disposition will thus be operational for "the most part," French sources said today in Ndjamena.

This "deterrent" force, the same sources said, will be based essentially on its air component. As from today, the French Air Force was expected to comprise 12 Jaguar and Mirage F-1 air craft. The KC-135 tankers and the Breguet Atlantique monitoring aircraft are expected in the next few days when the runway at Ndjamena airport, damaged yesterday in a Libyan air raid, will be reopened to large carrier aircraft.

Air Force Colonel Hector Pissochet has been appointed commander of the French troops taking part in that operation codenamed "Sparrow-hawk."

In its present disposition, the French military force requires the presence of about 500 troops. According to an authoritative French source, however, some 1,500 ground troops and paratroopers of the Marine Infantry now in the CAR could be brought in and positioned "in the shortest possible time," should the need arise.

Since Monday, a virtual airlift has been linking the CAR capital Bangui to Ndjamena. It is recalled that the Transalls are the only transport aircraft capable of landing at Ndjamena, as the runway at the airport remains prohibited [interdite] to large carrier aircraft. The repair work on this runway, which French soldiers say was damaged by a 2,000 kilogramme bomb, is going on actively both day and night. Large transport aircraft could use it again by Tuesday evening or at the latest Wednesday morning, according to a reliable source.

After the Libyan bomb attack, the Ndjamena authorities have denounced "the indifference and guilty silence of certain states and international organizations" in a communique. The communique also calls on "all peace-loving and justice-seeking countries to support Chad." It also asks the OAU, the United Nations, and the Islamic Conference to "take their responsibilities by making clearcut pronouncements" on the conflict that "is opposing Chad and Libya."

At the same time, official sources say that the situation in the north of the country is calm. According to Ndjamena, the enemy troops who were defeated in last week's fighting in the 16 parallel area, have "fallen back in confusion, towards the north." However, according to Ndjamena, the persistence of Libyan movements between southern Libya and northern Chad show "that Tripoli has not yet learned a lesson."

Foreign Ministry Says Ndjamena Airport in Use

AB190848 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Concerning the bombing of the Ndjamena Airport, a CCA communique issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation has said that repair work has begun and that planes have begun landing there again.

GUNT Spokesman Claims Control of Chadian Towns

AB181524 Paris AFP in English 1450 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Paris, Feb 18 (AFP) — The official spokesman for the Chadian rebel Transitional National Union Government (GUNT) claimed in a radio interview from Libya today that his movement controlled several settlements in government-held territory.

The radio, monitored in Paris, said GUNT forces, which have controlled the northern half of Chad with Libyan backing since 1983, had seized eight localities spanning nearly the full width of the central african country. All the towns lie south of the 16th parallel, which marks the division between the rebel-held north and the government-controlled south.

The GUNT claim contradicted earlier statements by French and Chadian authorities that a rebel offensive last week on government areas had been repulsed.

Among the towns mentioned by GUNT today were Zigey in the west, Kouba Oulanga, on the central road from the capital, Ndjamena, to the major northern oasis of Faya-Largeau, and Oum Chalouba, 750 km (470 miles) northeast of Ndjamena on the country's second main north-south road. The three towns were among four settlements the rebels claimed to have captured in the offensive launched February 10.

Other towns mentioned today included Nokou, in the far west near Lake Chad, and Arada, which is the last major settlement on the road from Oum Chalouba to a key government garrison in Biltine.

The rebel spokesman, quoted by Radio Tripoli, also said that GUNT had a force of combat planes flown by Chadian pilots and would be within its rights to attack rear bases of the Habre government. He repeated claims that a Tupolev bomber, which yesterday attacked the Ndjamena airport, belonged to GUNT and that the airfield had been "totally destroyed."

Western military experts have countered that only Libya has the Soviet-made bombers in the region and that the propeller-driven fighters with which GUNT is known to be equipped could not have reached Ndjamena.

The spokesman went on to call on the Chadian people to "mobilize in support of the valiant struggle for national liberation," and accused France of having imperialist designs in Chad.

GUNT Communique on Air Strike; Urges Final Attack

AB181632 Paris AFP in French 1339 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Paris, 18 Feb (AFP) — The Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] (armed opposition to Chadian President Hissein Habre) issued a communique in Paris on Tuesday stating that the bombardment of Ndjamena airport on Monday was carried out by a "Chadian squadron," and appealed for mobilization for the "final attack" of its forces against "the suffering hordes of Ndjamena."

This communique, which was released by the GUNT representative in Paris with a Bardai (northern Chad) dateline, and that "was signed by the GUNT information minister in Chad," said that the "bombardment of the French military base at Ndjamena on 17 February" was an "energetic reprisal" to the French bombing of "the Ouadi Doum civilian airstrip," which represents an "escalation of French imperialist aggression." Also in the communique, Goukouni Oueddei's movement called on "all heroic fighters in the armed struggle in the center, the east, the west, and south (of Chad), and those in the rear bases, to be vigilant and exercise revolutionary determination in the Chadian people's liberation war."

The GUNT also asserted that "the French government alone was responsible for the catastrophic consequences of the aggression perpetrated by French imperialism." The movement finally reiterated "its constant readiness" to seek a "negotiated solution to the Chadian problem," but that "it reserved the right to respond energetically to any form of imperialist aggression."

The GUNT representative in Paris said on Monday, the day after the bombardment of Uadi Doum by the French Air Force, that his movement and its allies would retaliate "each time this was necessary."

BENIN

$8 Million Loan Agreement Signed With BADEA

AB142246 Dakar PANA in English 1143 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum, 14 (PANA) — Benin has secured a loan of 8 million U.S. dollars from the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) for the partial financing of a road project connecting the southern part of the country to the north.

The agreement for the loan was signed yesterday at BADEA Headquarters in Khartoum by Mr Zul-Kifl Salami, minister in charge of planning in the office of the president of Benin, and Dr Chedly Ayari, president of the bank.

The money will finance 34 percent of the 161 kms portion of road between Save and Parakou, one of the two sections of the Dassa-Parakou stretch on the Cotonou-Malanville road connecting southern Benin to the northern part of the country. It will cover the asphalting cost and the consultancy service for the supervision of the project. The project will contribute to Benin's economic integration and development as well as to the development of the neighbouring landlocked countries.

The BADEA loan is repayable in 13 years, including a 5-year grace period, and carries an annual interest rate of 6 percent.

The loan brings to $39,163,000 BADEA's commitment to Benin so far. The country has also received Arab assistance totalling $109,600,000 from 1973-84.

BURKINA FASO

Sankara Receives CEAO Deputy Secretary

AB142146 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Within the framework of the 11th summit of the West African Economic Community [CEAO], which will take place in March in our country, the CEAO current chairman, Captain Thomas Sankara, president of Burkina Faso, yesterday afternoon granted a lengthy audience to the CEAO deputy secretary general, Mohamed Abdal (Ani) Ould Mohamed Ahmed, with whom he held a working session.

Issues examined during the session centered on preparations for the summit, technical dossiers to be examined during the summit, and the instructions by the current CEAO chairman concerning successful proceedings of the 11th summit. Listen to the deputy secretary general presenting the program of the various meetings, and airing his views on the preparations for the 11th summit:

[Begin Ahmed recording] Concerning the preparations at the level of the secretariat general, all the dossiers are ready and have been sent to the member-states within the prescribed time. From next Monday until late March, we will hold successive meetings, that is meetings of experts, boards of directors, council of ministers, and the summit meeting of the heads of state. The meetings concern all the economic activities of the member-states of the Community. For instance, from Monday, 17 February, 1986, we will hold a meeting of the ad hoc committee of experts to review the agreements on regional cooperation taxes and examine proposals for new financial resources.

On Monday, 24 February, 1986, the 35th session of the technical experts committee will begin. This meeting is an important one because it concerns the subcommittees charged with cooperation in the field of trade, rural development, industrial development, administrative and financial affairs, and problems relating to the Solidarity and Intervention Fund for the Development of the Community [FOSIDEC].

We will also hold a meeting of the ad hoc committee of experts on the harmonization of the investments codes which begins on (?10 March).

Also on 10 March, 1986, the meeting of the FOSIDEC alternate administrators will begin. Just after this meeting, the meeting of the council of ministers will take place from 17 to 23 March, 1986, which will be followed by the conference of heads of state. [end recording]

Justice Minister Returns From Cuba, Comments

AB182130 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Captain Blaise Compaore, minister of state delegated to the presidency of Burkina Faso and minister of justice, has returned from Cuba where he attended the 3d congress of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC]. This morning, the comrade minister met with the national press to give an account of his mission to Cuba — a mission whose objectives were greatly achieved. Let us listen to him:

[Begin Compaore recording] We visited Cuba. Our visit was devoted to one main area — that is to deliver the greetings of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] and of its chairman to the PCC which was holding its 3d congress from 4 to 7 February. Secondly, it gave us the opportunity to contact the Cuban authorities to discuss the strengthening of cooperation between Cuba and Burkina Faso. This 3d congress, which took place after those of 1975 and 1979, discussed important issues, for example the election of the members of the leadership organ [words indistinct] which is on the program of the PCC. It is at this congress that the PCC presented a draft program. Certainly, apart from that, there were several other discussions and resolutions, notably concerning the amelioration of the system of planning and utilization of the economy; there was also a draft resolution on the orientation of the economy of a 5-year development plan which will soon begin, a draft resolution on the amelioration of the political and administrative organization of the republic, and certainly, the last resolution on international politics. [end recording]

GUINEA

Citizens No Longer Need Exit Visas, Permits

AB172225 Dakar PANA in English 1606 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Conakry, 17 Feb (AGP-GUI/PANA) — Guineans will no longer be required to obtain exit visas or permits before leaving the country.

Fode Moussa Sylla, chief of the country's border guard security forces told PANA that the measure is in line with the government's determination to ensure that human rights are respected in the country.

Old Guinean passports are presently being replaced with new ones, and estimates for printing costs rest at 3 million dollars.

Before the military took over, Guineans were required to apply for exit visas from the Ministry of Interior. The application was then submitted to a commission for acceptance or refusal.

IVORY COAST

France's Penne Briefs President on Chad 14 Feb

AB141514 Paris AFP in French 1325 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Abidjan, 14 Feb (AFP) — Mr Guy Penne, special adviser on African affairs to French President Francois Mitterrand, held discussions with President Houphouet-Boigny on Friday morning during a brief stopover in Abidjan. Diplomatic sources say Mr Penne informed the Ivorian head of state particularly on the situation in Chad and the arrangements taken by the French Government in accordance with its agreement with Ndjamena. Mr Penne, who is presently touring Africa and who had come over from Togo, left immediately for Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Foreign Minister Receives Israeli Officials

AB141200 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 14 Feb 86 p 30

[Excerpt] Ivorian Foreign Minister Simeon Ake has received Mr Shim'on Agur and Mr Yitzhak Minervi, respectively Israeli charge d'affaires in our country and Israeli ambassador to Ivory Coast from 1967 to 1971. The foreign minister took the opportunity to stress that our country does not have any intention to renounce the principles of peace. Peace is possible through dialogue, he said.

It is our wish that the peace process will be expanded and developed as in the past, replied the Israeli representatives. On the whole, the two parties agreed to maintain bilateral relations on the basis of respect for each country's territorial integrity.

LIBERIA

Details Requested on Duvalier Asylum Request

AB181822 Paris AFP in French 1646 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Monrovia, 18 Feb (AFP) — Liberia has asked the French Government for details in order to determine whether the application for political asylum for former Haitian President Jean-Claude Duvalier was from the former head himself or from France [words indistinct] Mr Ledlum, the Liberian deputy minister of foreign affairs.

It will be recalled that the Liberian minister of foreign affairs, J. Bernard Blamo, announced on Friday that his government had received a "diplomatic note" from the French authorities on Monrovia's possible granting of asylum to Jean-Claude Duvalier.

Mr Ledlum also denied rumors circulating in Monrovia that the former dictator and his immediate family would arrive in Monrovia on Tuesday.

Jackson Doe Interviewed After Release

MB142226 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 14 Feb 86

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Jackson Doe, leader of the opposition Liberian Action Party was freed from jail last night some 26 hours after a court dismissed treason charges against him and ordered his release. He has been in jail since the abortive coup attempt last November. His release leaves only one opposition leader behind bars, Jackson Doe's colleague Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Her case case has been referred to the criminal court. On the line, Rick Wells spoke briefly to Jackson Doe and asked him how he reacted to his release.

[Begin recording] [Doe] I am grateful to God, I am grateful to the party, and I am grateful to the lawyers as well as those who prayed for me.

[Wells] How was it in detention? How were you treated?

[Doe] Well, in detention — I was there for about 3 months — I was not tortured, except for fever, then malaria. I did not get seriously sick.

[Wells] What about the condition of your colleague, Ellen Sirleaf Johnson? How is she?

[Doe] She is trying to hold on. You know, it is not a pleasant thing to be there, but she is trying to keep up. I will hope that she would get out and she will be better.

[Wells] Is she confident that, she will like you be released soon?

[Doe] Well, the case will be coming up shortly and I think the lawyers are hopeful she will get out.

Doe To Submit Bill for Privatization of Corporations

AB182052 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
1710 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] The president of Liberia, Dr Samuel K. Doe, is to submit a bill to the national legislature to privatize or sell shares in a number of public corporations. According to the national radio station quoting a press release from the press secretary, this was disclosed today when Dr Doe addressed the joint session of the legislature at the Capitol during a short visit. The bill will affect several corporations which government considers a drain on the public sector. Dr Doe said the submission of the bill was a further manifestation of government's desire to improve the nation's economic situation. He also said that the bill to be submitted shortly to the lawmakers will include a proposal for government to discontinue subsidy to all public corporations within fiscal year 1986-1987.

Dr Doe hoped that when the bill is passed, the action will afford our citizens, interested investors, and our partners in progress an opportunity to fully participate in the development process through the outright purchase and joint-venture agreements of these corporations.

NIGERIA

GUNT Delegation Arrives for Talks With Babangida

AB171844 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] The leader of one of the factions in the Chadian crisis, Mr Goukouni Oueddei, has sent a delegation to President Ibrahim Babangida, ostensibly to seek political support from the Federal Government. A member of the delegation, Mr Oumar, told airport correspondents that they wanted France to withdraw its troops from Chad to afford Chadians a chance to settle their domestic problems. He said the team had been to France and Gabon before coming to Nigeria.

Meets With Akinyemi

AB181614 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Nigeria says she will continue to open all lines of communication with all parties involved in the Chadian conflict in an effort to evolve a peace process. The minister of external affairs, Professor Bolaji Akinyemi, stated this today in Lagos shortly after meeting with a 4-man delegation from the Goukouni Oueddei faction of the Chadian conflict. He explained that he received the delegation to further demonstrate the Federal Government's belief that the dispute would be best resolved by Chadians themselves. Prof Akinyemi pledged that Nigeria was ready to facilitate the peace process but would not impose any solution on the people of Chad.

On whether Nigeria was planning to hold another all-party conference to bring together all the factions, the minister said Nigeria would not convene such a meeting unless all the parties gave their consent.

Prof Akinyemi denied allegations that the delegation was not welcomed on arrival yesterday, pointing out that the team was received at the proper level at Murtala Mohammed Airport by the deputy chief of protocol. Since it was not a government delegation he said, it was not received at a higher level than that.

The delegation was led by Mr Acheikh ibn Oumar who briefed the minister on the purpose of the visit.

Also in Lagos today, the Chadian National People's Peace Committee issued a statement calling for an immediate ceasefire. It also called for an end to foreign intervention in the Chadian conflict. The chairman of the committee, Mr Youssouf Amba Amamou, told a Radio Nigeria correspondent that the committee would want all the factions in the conflict to come together and discuss their common problems in the interest of the their country. He said the problem in Chad was surmountable because it was man-made.

Cooperation Talks With Sierra Leone Begin

AB151142 Lagos Domestic Service in English
2100 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Nigeria and Sierra Leone yesterday in Lagos began talks aimed at strengthening economic relations between them. President Babangida told officials of both countries at the opening session to finalize arrangements for economic, scientific and technical cooperation. Such an agreement, he said, will (?pave the way) for the establishment of a Nigeria-Sierra Leone joint commission. General Babangida also stressed the need for both countries to strengthen trade links and conclude negotiations [words indistinct] an air service between them. The Sierra Leonean leader, President Joseph Momoh, expressed gratitude to the government and people of Nigeria for the assistance they had always given to his country. [passage indistinct] He stated that his country was prepared to accept proposals from Nigeria to exploit (?mineral deposits) in Sierra Leone's territorial waters. The Sierra Leonean leader will tomorrow visit military establishments in Jaji and Kaduna. This is his first visit outside Sierra Leone since he became president in November.

A Radio Nigeria correspondent recalls that both Presidents Babangida and Momoh were coursemates at the Nigerian Defense Academy, Kaduna in 1962.

Presidents Meet; Communique Issued

AB161712 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Nigeria and Sierra Leone are to conclude without further delay negotiations on five major agreements. They are an economic, scientific, and technical cooperation agreement, an air service agreement, and a fishing rights agreement. Others are trade agreement, and a cultural and education agreement.

In a communique issued in Lagos today at the end of an official visit to Nigeria, President Joseph Momoh of Sierra Leone and his host, President Ibrahim Babangida, noted with satisfaction, the warm and excellent relations existing between the two countries. They expressed their determination to forge further closer relations based on constant consultations and sustained cooperation.

The two presidents reaffirmed their confidence in ECOWAS as an effective instrument for a collective fight against poverty and underdevelopment in the subregion. They stressed the need for member states to honor their financial obligations to ECOWAS to enable the organization to meet the laudable objective of improving the economic well-being of the people of the subregion.

Presidents Babangida and Momoh reaffirmed their support for world efforts aimed at countering the problems of drought, famine, and external debts of African countries, and appealed to the international community to increase assistance to the continent.

On the outbreak of hostilities in Chad, the two leaders called for an immediate cease-fire and the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the country. They called on the Chadian leaders to rise above sectional interests and put an end to the civil strife.

Turning to southern Africa, the two leaders condemned the sinister and destructive method of repression employed by the racist regime in South Africa. They said that the apartheid regime's continued aggression, destabilization, and economic blackmail was merely an attempt to frighten the Frontline States from offering sanctuary to its opponents.

The two presidents reaffirmed their belief that mandatory comprehensive economic sanctions would pressurize the apartheid regime to dismantle the obnoxious system.

President Joseph Momoh expressed profound gratitude to the people of Nigeria for the genuine hospitality accorded him and his entourage, and extended an invitation to President Ibrahim Babangida to pay an official visit to Sierra Leone.

Speaking at a state banquet held in honor of President Momoh in Lagos last night, President Babangida called on Nigeria and Sierra Leone to develop closer ties that would serve as a model for other African countries. General Babangida noted that they were both class mates at the military academy and this, he said, emphasized [words indistinct] of their personal friendship. He said that the agreements reached between them on scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation, as well as aviation and manpower training, should serve as a solid foundation. Gen Babangida also called for greater cooperation among developing countries. He noted that Third World countries should strive for greater ties because international economy was dominated by [words indistinct]. President Babangida announced that government was intensifying efforts to ensure the effective development and utilization of the country's resources.

Responding, Major Momoh expressed the hope that his visit would make for the intensification of exchanges between the two countries in the area of trade and commerce under a legal framework. He said that African countries looked up to Nigeria to spearhead action in areas of crucial importance to the continent, especially the situation in southern Africa. The Sierra Leonean leader described as sinister recent developments in the region [word indistinct] by the virtual blockade of Lesotho and the cross border raids by racist forces to destabilize the Frontline States. Gen Momoh stated that the Western world, as champions of human rights and democracy, owed the people of Africa a duty to ensure that human rights and democracy were enjoyed not by a few but by all the people of South Africa regardless of their race and color.

Before leaving Lagos for home today, the Sierra Leonean leader and his wife worshipped at the Methodist Church, Lagos.

Mauritanian Envoy's Wife Arrested for Currency Deal

AB150932 Lagos Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] The wife of the second counselor in the Mauritania Embassy has been arrested in Lagos for alleged currency trafficking. She was apprehended by security men at the Murtala Mohamed International Airport with three boxes, one of which allegedly contained 589,960 naira in old Nigerian currency.

The woman arrived in the country aboard an Air Afrique aircraft from Bamako, Mali. Security men also arrested the woman's husband who was at the airport to welcome her. They were, however, released after making useful statements to security officials at the airport.

Ministry Reacts to Rawlings' 'Offensive Statement'

AB181655 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] The Federal Government has expressed surprise at a statement credited to the Ghanaian leader, Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, in which he accused Nigeria of being an agent of imperialism. The Ministry of External Affairs said in Lagos today that the government was amazed by such a statement from the head of state of a brother West African country with which Nigeria had enjoyed friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation even before independence. The ministry pointed out that it was not part of the tradition of Nigerian diplomacy to trade insults with anybody, but reminded Ghana that civility was not a sign of weakness.

The offensive statement by the Ghanaian leader was made during the conference of the Organization of African Trade Union Unity held in Accra last week.

Planning Minister Cited on Budget, Oil Prices

AB151856 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] The disbursement of funds to federal ministries and agencies will now be based on the rate at which they submit performance report. Already, forms on which the ministries and agencies will make their performance reports have been designed. The minister of national planning, Dr Kalu I. Kalu, told newsmen in Lagos yesterday that the measure was to hasten the implementation of various programs and projects contained in this year's budget. He said that modalities for monitoring the budget's implementation have been worked out by his ministry.

On the possibility of working out contingency plans to save the 1986 budget in the event of a further decline in the prices of crude oil, the minister said that it was difficult to plan for the vagaries of the volatile oil market. He stated, however, that the budget has a measure of control built into it, and that it will be implemented to the degree of available resources.

Dr Kalu, who said that budget planners did not anticipate that the price of crude oil would fall as low as $16 per barrel, maintained that it was too early to start thinking of revising the entire budget.

SENEGAL

Communique Issued on Cooperation Meeting With Mali

AB141115 Dakar PANA in French 1400 GMT 13 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Dakar, 13 Feb (APS-SEN/PANA) — The seventh session of the great Senegalese-Malian joint commission ended on Wednesday evening with a reaffirmation of the desire of Dakar and Bamako to further strengthen their cooperation in all fields by revitalizing the activities of this joint platform for exchange of views.

The session of the great commission was held in Dakar parallel to the official visit of Alioune Blondin Beye, Malian minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, to Senegal from 7 to 12 February.

In a communique issued at the end of the visit, the two sides reiterated their desire to develop and intensify subregional cooperation within existing subregional and regional organizations, in particular the OMVS [Senegal River Development Organization], the CEAO [West African Economic Community], the ICDCS [Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel] and the ECOWAS.

On the situation in Africa and the world, in conformity with the directives of the Senegalese and Malian presidents, and in an atmosphere of identical views, the two delegations reaffirmed that international peace and security can only be achieved through the respect of the principles of the OAU and the United Nations, in particular through the peaceful settlement of conflicts and the noninterference in the domestic affairs of other states.

During the session, a critical examination was made of and plans mapped out for the following areas: cultural affairs, information, social development, trade exchanges, industrial development, rural development, transport, environmental protection, tourism, and water resources.

All bottlenecks were removed and the balance sheet of our bilateral cooperation is very positive, Malian Foreign Minister Blondin Beye said at the end of the meeting. Blondin Beye expressed happiness in particular because his country will no longer be isolated, thanks to the Dakar-Bamako roadway for which financing of surveys has been obtained.

There is also the forthcoming air link between the two capitals by Air Senegal airline. There is also the waterway. The Senegal River, after the construction of the Diama dam, will become another access route, parallel to the traditional railroad. The Malian foreign minister assured the Senegalese authorities that his country will keep its place at the Dakar port.

2-Year Cultural Agreement Signed With PRC

AB172235 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Excerpt] China and Senegal are now officially linked by a 2-year cultural exchange draft agreement which was signed by the two sides this morning. Concerning the agreement, the Senegalese minister of culture, Makhily Gassama, expects a lot.

[Begin Gassama recording] As stated previously, the agreement will help strengthen links between the PRC and the Republic of Senegal through cultural exchanges. What do exchanges consist of? Concerning all the aspects of the cultural sector, we tried to concretely and realistically provide for a number of actions, particularly the exchange of experts and radio and television programs which will be broadcast in both countries for a better mutual knowledge of the two countries. We also provided for the exchange of films through the organization of Senegalese film weeks in China, and Chinese film weeks here in Senegal. In the field of training, we provided for the exchange of students through the granting of Chinese scholarships to Senegalese students in various artistic sectors to study in China, and Senegalese scholarships to Chinese students who would like to be informed on the cultural realities of this country, and who could be good messengers in China after completing their studies. [End recording]

LESOTHO

Lekhanya Meets Diplomatic Corps in Maseru

MB131515 Maseru Domestic Service in English
1130 GMT 13 Feb 86

[Text] The chairman of the Military Council of Lesotho and chairman of the Council of Ministers, His Excellency Major General Metsing Lekhanya, this morning met with members of the diplomatic corps resident in Maseru for the first time since the military took over power in the country.

During the meeting, which he said was one of acquaintance, Maj Gen Lekhanya said the new administration of Lesotho welcomed the presence of the members of the diplomatic corps among the Basotho.

He assured them of the government's assistance at all times to promote cooperation and friendship with the people of Lesotho. The chairman of the Military Council further said that the outlines of the policies of the new administration had been stated by the head of state, his majesty, King Moshoeshoe II, and by the council in its statements.

He stressed that the new adminstration was committed to working for peace and true reconciliation among the Basotho. He said the new government stands for economic development, in collaboration with all friendly countries and agencies, both regional and international.

Maj Gen Lekhanya asked the diplomats to feel free to discuss [words indistinct] all matters of common interest, using the accepted and usual channel of communication. He wished them happy and fruitful days of service in Lesotho.

The chairman was accompanied by four members of the Military Council, Colonel Tsotetsi, Colonel Ramaema, Colonel Mosoeunyane, and Colonel Nako Letsie, and the minister of finance and acting minister of foreign affairs, the Honorable E.R. Sekhonyana.

Delegation Leaves for Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal

MB181223 Maseru Domestic Service in English
1130 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] A high-powered special mission consisting of His Excellency Colonel A.K. Mosoeunyane, a member of the Military Council, and the Honorable Dr M.M. Sefali, minister for economic affairs and Planning, left Maseru to day for Nairodi, Lagos, and Dakar.

In Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, the mission will deliver messages from his majesty to President Daniel Arap Moi, in Lagos, Nigeria, Ibrahim Babangida; and in Dakar, Senegal, to the current chairman of the OAU and head of state of Senegal, President Abdou Diouf. It is expected that the mission will also have opportunity to confer with the heads of state of the three countries and cement relations of friendship and cooperation between them and Lesotho.

Another for Ethiopia, Algeria

MB131253 Maseru Domestic Service in English
1130 GMT 13 Feb 86

[Text] A special mission consisting of two members of the Council of Ministers left Maseru this afternoon for Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, and Algiers in Algeria, to deliver messages from his majesty to the secretary general of the OAU, Mr Ide Omarou, who is based in Addis Ababa, and the head of state of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid.

The mission, comprising the minister of labor and manpower development, the Honorable Colonel (Blight Ntsume), and the minister of information and broadcasting, the honorable (V. M. Malebu) is part of the continuing process of reaffirming ties of friendship with African countries.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Receives Visiting Lesotho Delegation

MB131751 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1700 GMT 13 Feb 86

[Text] President Samora Machel received a delegation from the Kingdom of Lesotho in Maputo this afternoon.

The Lesotho delegation is headed by Lieutenant Colonel Thaabe Letsie, who is a member of the Military Council. The delegation handed over a message from King Moshoeshoe II to President Samora Machel. The message informed the Mozambican head of state on the reasons which led to the overthrow of the Leabua Jonathan government by the military authorities.

Thaabe Letsie also spoke about changes in Lesotho after the coup d'etat and stressed the anti-apartheid line of the new government. He also reiterated his country's commitment to the observance of all international principles and obligations, especially in regard to SADCC.

In turn, President Samora Machel said that Mozambique will continue to develop its good relations with Lesotho. The Mozambican head of state was accompanied by Joaquim Chissano, the Mozambican minister of foreign affairs.

The Lesotho delegation also included the minister of foreign affairs and the Lesotho ambassador accredited in Maputo. The delegation has already visited other countries in southern Africa to inform them on the situation in the country after the military coup d'etat last month.

Dos Santos: Sofal Workers To Be Sent to Front

MB171648 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1830 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Statement at a press conference by Major General Marcelino dos Santos, member of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau and leader of Sofala Province, in Beira City; date not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] The victory of Gorongosa must be viewed in the context of the broad offensive which was launched throughout the country on all fronts and especially on the military, economic, and diplomatic fronts.

This is the task, the great task, that is being carried out here in our country, and particularly here in Sofala province. If we take this view of the struggle against the armed bandits, we will see that this struggle is closely linked to the struggle for production. And it is no coincidence, therefore, that Comrade President Samora Machel launched a generalized offensive on the military, economic, and diplomatic fronts. These fronts are closely linked to one another. More exactly, they are interrelated, be they military, economic or diplomatic actions. These demands have forced us to search for specific solutions to fulfill what has been described as a war economy. As the comrades may recall, the great watchwords adopted by the fourth congress were: defend the fatherland, overcome underdevelopment, and build socialism. However, to do this at this stage we all must understand that the main form of struggle is the armed struggle. This means the same situation that we experienced throughout the revolutionary armed struggle for national liberation. This means that when we say that the armed struggle is the main form of our struggle, all other activities are secondary. That is why we say today that there is a need to wage war in order to create well-being, defend independence and sovereignty, and build peace.

That is why it is also necessary to develop the organization of the people's militia. This is a very important point if we take into account that there was no compulsory military service in our country, that is, we are faced with a large number of our people, who are older than 18, older than 25, and older than 30, but who do not know the technique and art of war.

One must always be vigilant because as long as imperialism exists there is always the possibility of aggression against the people. Thus people must organize themselves [words indistinct]. Naturally, in the capitalist countries there is no need for this. However, in a socialist country this is possible and necessary. Thus in our country, it is possible and necessary to organize the people's militia. We have simply to provide the training for the people's militia. As you know, we had difficulties in training centers and in making all 18-year-olds perform their compulsory military service and training. We are now making great efforts to have training camps in all provinces so that they may be trained. This is the present situation, which did not prevail in the past. We still are experiencing difficulties. All over the country, you can see the training of the people's militia and here in Beira city, for example, we have the (?golf course) center, which is very well known. This is precisely to give basic training to the workers, so that they can guarantee the defense of working and residential areas and patrol Beira city.

Therefore, the workers must also be prepared for defensive actions. To be more exact, we will say that to participate in offensive actions, militia training at the (?golf course) in Beira city is not enough. There are places in our province where the training of militiamen is practically identical to the training of soldiers. This happens in a number of districts.

However, the training given at the (?golf course) is special, specifically meant to ensure the defense of working and residential areas as well as the patrolling of the city. Thus, those who have only had the training given at the (?golf course) should be trained for about 1 month so that they may know a bit better or, rather, so that they may gain a better insight about strategy when we talk about war.

Training in Beira city is obviously different from training here at the (?golf course). We have to take these workers to the Dondo military training center for a period of 1 month, for example. This is in regard to the people's militia and workers.

Those workers who have already undergone training for offensive actions for 1, 2, or 3 months each year should participate in frontline offensive actions. By this, I mean the workers of all enterprises, be they small or large enterprises. The size does not matter. What matters is this: Let us take an enterprise which has 50 workers, for example. Let us say that each worker will be at the front for 1 or 2 months a year, so that the enterprise may continue functioning. Within this framework, 5 or 10 workers would go, or for example 5 workers in 50 would go every month [words indistinct]. Six or eight workers would go for a 2-month stint, some coming, others going.

It is obvious that all workers will not be going alone. I am talking about small enterprises, because an enterprise like the Beira Naval Repair Works, for example, is already a big enterprise. It has 1,000 workers. Instead of sending 5 or 8 workers, it can, for example, send 50 workers to the front every month.

An enterprise like the Mafambisse sugar estates can send one company, even two companies, totaling about 120, 150 or 300 men, depending on whether each company includes 90 or 150 men. They should then send one or two companies every 2 months that can go to the front and return.

However, when it is only one company, for instance, well, one company already constitutes one body which can be given a task, an action, or an area where it will participate in offensive actions against the enemy. However, if it is only five or six workers they can not do that.

We are not only advancing ideas when we talk like this. We are not just saying nice things that ought to be done. We are referring to tasks which are already being carried out in a number of enterprises and not just here in Sofala Province, where the main example is provided by the Metuchira enterprise, but in various parts of the country. Comrade President Samora Machel himself held meetings with directors and mangers of a number of enterprises on these issues. These meetings centered on the experiences which the country is currently undergoing in this process of developing a war economy. It has been found that the enterprises which follow this procedure of training their workers and which accept these guidelines, sending one worker today, another one tomorrow, and so on throughout the year until all workers have been to the front, are the ones which produce, defend themselves, and eliminate the armed bandits.

NAMIBIA

Supreme Court Dismisses SWAPO Application

MB131128 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1127 GMT 13 Feb 86

[Text] Windhoek, Feb 13, SAPA — The Windhoek supreme court today dismissed an application by seven SWAPO members seeking to invalidate a charge sheet against them because it was in conflict with a bill of fundamental rights embodied in the South African state president's Proclamation R101, which instituted the SWA/Namibian transitional government last June.

The men are to be charged in terms of section of the Terrorism Act and the Suppression of Communism Act.

The accused are Mr Frans Angula, 28, Mr Norbet Ankome, 25, Mr Elkan Simon, 21, Mr Bernardinus Shikongo, 47, Mr Desiderius Ankome, 26, Mr Erastus Uutoni, 28, and Mr Vilho Kashilulu, 22.

According to the charge sheet, which runs to 114 pages, the state alleges they were connected with or had knowledge of a series of acts of sabotage in SWA/Namibia, including a bomb blast at Okatana service station in the north of the territory in April 1984.

Two United States diplomats, Mr Dennis Keogh and Lt-Col Kenneth Crabtree, died in the explosion.

Defence Counsel Mr Ian Farlam, SC [Senior Counsel], submitted in argument earlier that Proclamation R101 susperseded all security laws in SWA/Namibia which were not consonant with the bill of rights, which provided for freedom of speech and freedom of association, among other things.

In his ruling today, Mr Justice Johan Strydom, said Proclamation R101 should not be regarded as a sovereign constitution act and other laws from which it became clear that the South African state president and the South African Parliament retained certain legislative powers over the territory.

The powers of the SWA/Namibian National Assembly remained subject to the legislative powers of the two South african legislatures. In consequence, laws such as the Terrorism Act and the Suppression of Communism Act remained in force until they were repealed by a "competent authortiy (bevoedge Gesag)."

SOUTH AFRICA

Paper Says Mandela Release Already Decided

MB190606 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0500 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] The *BUSINESS DAY* nespaper reports the government may release Mr Nelson Mandela before a prisoner exchange is arranged. Senior government sources say the decision to release the jailed leader has already been made; only the timing and the conditions surrounding the release have yet to be ironed out.

U.S. Academic Working on Release

MB190652 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0500 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] An American professor says he is working on negotiations that could have Nelson Mandela freed soon. (Allan Durshovitz), a member of the law faculty at Harvard University, says he is working with (Irwin Cottler) of McGill University in Montreal, and another unidentified person, to secure the release of the jailed ANC leader.

Mr (Durshovitz) says there is a possibility that Mr Mandela could be freed as part of an exchange of prisoners, such the South Africans held in Angolan prisons. He says the Pretoria government told him a month ago that some gesture by the USSR would be seen as a positive step, and the recent prisoner exchange between East and West in Berlin seems to have created an atmosphere conducive to an exchange involving Mr Mandela.

Court Charges Against Mrs Mandela Dropped

MB191133 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1125 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 19, SAPA — Two charges of contravening a banning order that prohibits Mrs Winnie Mandela from entering the magisteral districts of Johannesburg and Roodepoort were withdrawn in the Krugersdorp Regional Court today.

The state supplied no reasons for withdrawing the charges, but advocate Mr Gilbert Marcus for the defence, argued before a capacity-filled courtroom of foreign journalists and Mandela supporters that the effect of the withdrawal was "a further step in this unhappy saga."

"Under normal circumstances, an accused person would be grateful if charges were withdrawn against them, but this means that the state is free at any time to reinstitute the charges against Mrs Mandela."

"The matter is now hanging over Mrs Mandela and she is left in limbo. The only proper course is that she be asked to plead, and therefore be entitled to an acquittal. The states withdrawal is abuse of her rights as a person," Mr Marcus said.

Mrs Mandela left the court building with a large crowd of supporters singing and chanting. Her appearance followed her arrest on two occasions for allegedly contravening her banning order, issued in terms of the Internal Security Act. Referring to her previous apperances in court, Mr Marcus said the state had had information to draft a charge sheet, but the hearing had been postponed twice for further investigation.

The instructing attorneys had made numerous requests to see the charge sheet, and Mrs Mandela had been "subjected to a monthly pilgrimage to this court." Mr George Thiart for the state replied that the hearing had been postponed pending a Supreme Court hearing where Mrs Mandela had challenged the validity of her banning order.

Regional magistrate Mr Chris Eksteen withdrew the charges against Mrs Mandela saying it was the state's prerogative to decide whether to proceed or not, and the court could not instruct the state to proceed.

Le Grange Says Government Will Act Against Unrest

MB181626 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] The minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, says the government will not hesitate to combat any situation with even more force if this is necessary to ensure the restoration of law and order.

Mr le Grange was addressing the President's Council on the unrest situation. He said there was a marked drop in incidents of unrest in some areas but the general climate in certain places still gave cuase for concern. Mr le Grange denied allegations that police action was too soft or too forceful. He said the police acted in good faith. No irresponsible or illegal action by members of the security forces were tolerated or condoned. Mr le Grange said social conditions in many black towns were without doubt contributory factors in the unrest. He said the government had made 126 million rand available for the upgrading of certain areas while more than 600 million rand has been made available for unemployment projects.

Mr le Grange emphasized that the police and the other security forces acted in a disciplined manner and within the law. Violent people who challenged the state should expect to be dealt with by the authority of the state. Mr le Grange said the security forces would take effective action against all forms of violence but would do so with the least possible loss of life and injury to others.

Sees 'Significant' Drop in Unrest

MB181822 Johannesburg Television Service in English 1700 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] The government's approach to the state of emergency is that the lifting of the state of emergency in the remaining 23 districts will only be considered as soon as law and order has been restored and maintained. The minister of law and order, Mr Louis Le Grange, said in the President's Council that there is a significant decrease in unrest nationwide. The state of emergency has already been lifted in 21 districts.

[Bigin video] [Le Grange] Thankfully, in the state of emergency areas there is a significant decrease, especially in the western Cape and Boland areas. In other areas, there a is significant decrease in unrest such as the eastern Cape, for example, and in the East Rand, and a number of other places. Unfortunately, there are areas in South Africa, the West Rand and others, where there isn't such a great decrease as we would have liked to see, but they are receiving attention and we hope that we will have those areas under control shortly.

[Unidentified reporter] Are you referring to the latest situation in Alexandra township, for example?

[Le Grange] Well, Alexandra township is part of the Witwatersrand police division area and in Alexandra township there were a large number of incidents on Saturday and Sunday, but these incidents emanated from a local incident. The security forces were not involved in the incident or its cause. It developed in the community but the police and the security forces were forced to act. Thus the Alexandra township incidents must be seen in persepctive to the security situation in general.

[Reporter] Minister, you said there was a decrease in incidents. To what do you ascribe this?

[Le Grange] Well, there are many factors. In the first place, effective action by the SAP and security forces, other effective actions such banning of meetings, detention of people in emergency areas and various other reasons which made it possible for a decrease in incidents of unrest.

[Announcer] Mr le Grange said the situation in many black residential areas is without doubt a contributory factor to the present unrest situation. He said the government is giving serious attention to improving the situation. In this connection, the minister referred to the 600 million rand set aside for creating job opportunities. Good progress has been made and cooperation is being experienced from certain quarters. A further 126 million has been made available for the upgrading of areas and services. Mr le Grange said serious attention is being given to any opportunity which could contribute to resolving the unrest situation. Everything possible is being done to prevent a problem developing. [end video]

Botha Releases Transcript of Nov Slabbert Meeting

MB181732 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1731 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Cape Town, February 18, SAPA — The state president, Mr P.W. Botha, today released the transcripts of tape recorded conversations with the former leader of the opposition, Dr van Zyl Slabbert. He has also issued a 12-page rebuttal of Dr Slabberts' charges based on extracts of the 30-page record of the conversation.

In his rebuttal, Mr Botha said Dr Slabbert had, in an interview with the *ARGUS* newspaper on Saturday, conveyed a "faulty" interpretation of his standpoint as well as that of the state president during the discussion. Mr Botha said he respected the confidentiality of private discussions but that Dr Slabbert had betrayed (geskend) this confidentiality by mentioning the conversation during the interview.

The former PFP leader had in fact informed the state president's office that he had no objection to the release of the transcript.

Mr Botha said he could not accept Dr Slabbert's statement as reported in the *ARGUS* that he had decided after meeting the state president on November 25 last year that he could not go through with the current session of Parliament.

Extracts from the full text released; in which Dr Slabbert undertook at the conclusion of their talks to present "a positive contribution" to the minister of constitutional development, Mr Chris Heunis' Cabinet committee, had Dr Slabbert responding to the president's invitation:

"I would very much (bittergraag) want to do it and would like to phone Minister Heunis and find out...."

When the president said he would be seeing Mr Heunis that afternoon and mentioned Dr Slabbert's intentions, Dr Slabbert replied: "I will contact his office tomorrow and see if an opportunity can be arranged." He thanked the president and left.

In his statement today, President Botha commented that these remarks of Dr Slabbert apparently indicated a positive attitude "the moment he left the office, which is in conflict with the negative impression of his attitude which he presently wishes to create."

Mr Botha denied asking Dr Slabbert during the conversation why he (Mr Botha) should take the PFP leader's advice, when the state president had 80 per cent of whites and more than 50 per cent of blacks behind him, with the Progressive Federal Party and the Conservative Party [CP] fighting for the rest of the white vote.

"The words 'but why should I listen to you?' were never used." Mr Botha said.

Three aspects of the conversation had been linked in the report, creating a false impression, he added. According to the transcript, he had told Dr Slabbert: "...The whites accepted much in South Africa under my leadership, and I think 80 per cent of the whites are with me and I think the other 20 per cent are shared by you and Andries Treurnicht (the CP leader) and Jaap Marais (the HNP [Reformed National Party] leader). But 80 per cent of the whites are with me."

Regarding the 50 per cent support of blacks, Mr Botha said he had been referring to support of blacks in South Africa "who do not want to throw their acquired rights in a pot and distance themselves from them (daarvan afstand wil doen nie.)"

After this statement, Mr Botha said, the newspaper report indicated that Dr Slabbert had said he could not believe there could be such divergent interpretations of data.

The president had replied: "I will tell you why. The black people come and sit with me here in the union buildings... and what do they say to me? Sir, don't take your troops and police out of the townships. Keep them there to protect us, we beg you, keep protecting us — the people that make our lives there unpleasantare the minority groups; they are small minorities of intimidators, of victimisers."

Mr Botha said Dr Slabbert's version of their conversation regarding self-determination for whites and the retention of the homelands had been quoted incorrectly and out of context. It appeared from the text, Mr Botha said, that Dr Slabbert accepted that the self-determination of whites should be maintained and that homeland leaders should be included in constitutional negotiations.

Dr Slabbert had said he had "no problem" with the concept of self-determination for whites and with the involvement of the homelands in negotiation, according to the transcript provided by Mr Botha. Mr Botha added that he had never used the words attributed to him that urbanised blacks would be "sorted out with decentralisation."

"The words do not appear (in the text). From the quoted section, it is also clear that the regional services council will come into operation in 1986 and that the government is bound to the development of first tier government for blacks within structures."

Regarding the reported statement by Mr Botha that the tricameral system was a "good start," the state president said he had been incorrectly quoted. According to the transcript, the conversation was follows:

Dr Slabbert: "I do not mean the total Constitution of South Africa must be destroyed. I am talking of the tricameral system..."

Mr Botha: "But we said that's the starting point..."

Dr Slabbert: "That's the point of departure (Vertrekpunt).

Mr Botha: "The point of departure."

Mr Botha also rejected statements that "nothing would change" regarding whites' right to own schools, residential areas and to maintain "the money they built up with such difficulty over the years."

According to the transcript, Mr Botha said:

"...I do not want to have sole say over the whites in South Africa. That is not practical politics. And I say that from the stage. But what I do say is that the white's lifestyle will be interfered with if his rights to educate his child as he chooses, if his language is threatened, if his residential areas — those things — if the riches that he has gathered, if these things are taken away from him, then I say to you, we are looking for trouble. You have conceded that to me in previous discussions."

Dr Slabbert replied: "No, I can't think how it could be expected that he, he says he will voluntarily step down from these things..."

Botha, Slabbert Discuss Buthelezi

MB181944 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1943 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Cape Town, Feb 18, SAPA — The trouble with Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi of KwaZulu is that he did not want to speak jointly with other blacks, the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, told the former PFP [Progressive Federal Party] leader, Dr van Zyl Slabbert, according to transcripts of tapes released today.

Dr Slabbert in turn, said that Chief Buthelezi's problem was that he knew if Nelson Mandela died he would end up being the Bishop Abel Muzorewa of South Africa.

In their conversation last November President Botha said: "I will tell you what is Buthelezi's trouble. Buthelezi's problem is that he wants to speak alone but he does not want to speak jointly with other blacks."

Dr Slabbert agreed with him but said this problem could be overcome.

"How?" the president asked.

"He must, as the Englishman says, he must be locked into an initiative. And I have a very strong feeling that we are on the threshold of such an intitiative where he can be involved."

President Botha told Dr Slabbert that he had told Chief Buthelezi that what the Zulu people needed in the first place was not political rights which they already had.

The president then told Dr Slabbert about conversations he had had with Chief Buthelezi about the Tugela areas and that a 10 to 20 year programme was to be tackled in the interests of the Zulu people.

Dr Slabbert said he was sure the chief agreed.

"But why does he not come and talk to us about it," the president asked.

Dr Slabbert said Chief Buthelezi's problem lay on a symbolic level. "You see Buthelezi and the ANC are devouring each other at the moment. I mean they are going for each, it is incredible how they are going for each other," he said.

"Yes that is all they are doing," the president responded.

"I told you at the beginning of the year that his big problem is that should Mandela die in jail he will become the (Bishop Abel) Muzorewa of South Africa and he is aware of it. He is scared of it."

The ANC was involved in a strong anti-Buthelezi campaign.

"The ANC wants to be the only bull in the kraal. And Buthelezi wants to be the only bull in the kraal," Dr Slabbert said.

"And they can't be, " the president said.

Dr Slabbert agreed and said he had told both of them this. "There are many more bulls in the kraal than you realise," he had told the ANC.

He had also warned the ANC that no matter how much they hated Buthelezi, he was the only one sending his children to school which meant that in 10 years time the only educated people in the country and the only rural people in the country were going to be Zulus, "and where does that leave you?"

However, they did not see the issue in this light.

Discuss ANC

MB182009 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2008 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Cape Town, Feb 18, SAPA — The ANC was a romantic myth which could be conquered, the former leader of the opposition, Dr van Zyl Slabbert, told the state president during an interview last November.

This was revealed in a transcript of the taped conversation between the two men released by the state president's office today.

On the issue of the ANC, Dr Slabbert said: "The ANC can be conquered. The trouble with the ANC is that it is a myth — no not a myth — it is a romantic image to those abroad."

He asked the president to believe that his actions in speaking to the ANC was an attempt to defuse the situation and told him that he could "pull the teeth of the whole ANC story".

The ANC was not in a position to handle the unrest situation in South Africa, "no matter what they say". "They can talk as much as they want to on Freedom Radio. I told them in Lusaka that if they were really in control of the situation, why didn't they call a moratorium on violence for six weeks and say we will show you.

"They did not know they could do it," Dr Slabbert told President Botha. "So the first point that I think is important is that the ANC should not be held up as an organisation which is so powerful that they can handle the unrest."

President Botha replied: "No, I don't say that either."

Dr Slabbert said he believed the ANC would be in "very deep water" if it should try to exert control because young blacks in the townships who were now militant were much more militant than anything he had encountered in Lusaka.

"I believe that..." said President Botha. He then switched the conversation to giving young blacks work rather than academic training which would make them "all the more frustrated." What was needed was the type of training that made them "fruitful people" and the government was busy with this long process.

Dr Slabbert said he had stressed to the ACN that its belief that "liberation was just around the corner" and that their "education after liberation" slogan for children would leave many dead which would result in a youth "cultural revolution" like Mao's mob." This would result in "a lot of unemployable people in 10 years' time."

He had also told the ANC that it was not possible for a white government to negotiate the transfer of power out of its own hands to whatever majority.

"It is not on," he had told them.

"It's not going to work like that and they know it."

He had already got feedback that they had listened, "but they are wary of me."

He had got the same feedback from the UDF [United Democratic Front]. "They (UDF) have a campaign against me too," he said, "and you must know that I took a strong stand against the UDF's attitude on the question of negotiating participation in the tricameral Parliament.

Slabbert Asks For Transcript Text

MB190611 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0528 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 19, SAPA — The former leader of the PFP, Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, has called on the head of the National Intelligence Service, Dr Neil Barnard, to release the transcript of the conversation he had with him following a meeting last month with the state president, Mr P.W. Botha.

Dr Slabbert said the text would provide "more complete background to the frustration and disappointment" he experienced as a result of his converstion with Mr Botha — which he has said led to his resignation in Parliament on February 7.

In a statement to SAPA this morning Dr Slabbert said he did not have the time to study the transcript of conversation he had with the president which Mr Botha released yesterday.

But he did say: "I am completely satisfied that the substance of that conversation showed a president sadly out of touch with his own country and determined to carry on with essential apartheid structures in residential areas, education and politics."

Dr Slabbert added that he found it "extraordinary that he (Mr Botha) now complains about confidentiality when he did not have the common courtesy to tell me that he was bugging a confidential interview that I requested." "Anyone in future should know that if they talk to the president of this country the word confidentiality means something special to him," Dr Slabbert said.

He then appealled to Dr Barnard "to release the full transcript of the conversation" he had with him. "This will provide more complete background to the frustration and disappointment I experienced as a result of my conversation with the state president," he said. Dr Slabbert added that he had "specifically requested Dr Barnard to tape record our conversation and to send copies of it to whomsoever he wished — but particularly to the state president himself."

Pik Botha Cites Harare Assurance on Terror Attack

MB190701 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] The South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, says the Zimbabwean Government has reconfirmed that its territory will not be used or made available for acts of terrorism against South Africa.

Replying to a question in the House of Assembly in Cape Town, Mr Botha confirmed that the South African Government has had discussions with the Zimbabwean Government following the recent series of terrorist activities, including the landmine explosions in the northern Transvaal.

Mr Botha said he had received the assurance that the matter would be investigated. Mr Botha said the facts and circumstances of each act of terrorism had been conveyed to the Zimbabwean Government imediately they had been reported, together with the South African Government's concern over indications that those responsible had (?openly) operated from Zimbabwean territory and had again fled (?back there).

Further Reportage on Unrest in Alexandra

Estimated 20 Killed, 700 Wounded

MB181939 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1938 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Johannesburg, Feb 18, SAPA — The minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, was today asked to ensure that policemen and members of the defence force patrolling black townships were accompanied by senior officers.

The call was made by Mr Michael Beea, chairman of the Alexandra Civic Association, following the shootings which have taken place in his strife-torn township over the past four days.

"We are aware that in the event of trouble in townships our people are being shot by young and inexperienced soldiers and policemen, most of whom are gun crazy," he said in an interview with SAPA.

"What is disturbing is that in a meeting I held with senior police officers today, one of them admitted that state troop carriers patrolling the townships were being manned by young whites most of whom were fresh form school."

He said senior police officers had told him that these young men used their own discretion to shoot in unrest incidents.

"Obviously," Mr Beea continued, "give any youngster a gun and he will enjoy shooting at people — particularly when he has satisfied himself that the law will be on his side." He said he had evidence that "harmless people, most of whom were law abiding," had been shot at by police and army troops during the trouble in the township. Some had been shot at in their homes, he claimed.

A SAPA reporter spoke to Mr Beea at his home where he was busy compiling a list of the injured and dead in Alexandra. Mr Beea estimated that about 700 people had been wounded and approximately 20 killed. He said he was receiving regular reports of those who had died in hospital.

Bishop Tutu Addresses Residents

MB181926 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1925 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 18, SAPA — Bishop Desmond Tutu helped defuse the volatile situation in Alexandra township near Johannesburg when he addressed thousands of residents at a mass meeting in the township this afternoon.

The residents had gathered at a stadium in Alexandra to demand the removal of security forces from the township after three days of bitter street fighting between residents and police had left a least nineteen people dead.

Before addressing the mass meeting Bishop Tutu — together with churchmen Dr Allan Boesak, Dr Beyers Naude and Bishop Manas Buthelezi — had held talks with senior police officers at the local Wynberg police station to discuss the situation in the township.

According to Mr Mike Beea, chairman of the Alexandra Civic Association, the police officers agreed at this meeting that:

— Police and the army would maintain a low profile in the township.

— Residents would be allowed to visit the mortuary to identify the dead.

— Police would not harass residents by making house-to-house searches at night.

— A senior police officer would convey the residents' demands for a withdrawal of security forces from the township to his superiors.

Addressing the mass meeting, Bishop Tutu appealed to residents to unite in the face of problams they experienced due to government policies.

"I know we all want freedom but we must get it in a disciplined manner," said Bishop Tutu. He appealed to residents to go home peacefully.

Bishop Tutu's address to the mass meeting, in which he conveyed the contents of the police undertaking, came after a dramatic series of events in the township today.

This morning, Bishop Tutu and the other churchmen in his delegation were barred by police from entering the township to talk to the assembled residents. They then met with members of the civic association in the Roman Catholic church on the outskirts of the township.

This meeting then managed to arrange an hour-long consultation with senior SAP officers, including a brigadier and two colonels. It was at this meeting that the police undertakings were made, according to Mr Beea. However, Dr Boesak and Dr Naude were then barred from entering the township and only Bishop Tutu and Bishop Manas Buthelezi were able to address the meeting.

Tutu Interviewed on Violence

MB191126 London BBC World Service in English 0709 GMT 19 Feb 86

[From the "24 Hours" program]

[Text] Black church leader Bishop Desmond Tutu has been visiting the Johannesburg township of Alexandra which has been the scene of violence and rioting for the past 4 days. Shortly after his visit, Bishop Tutu described the mood in Alexandra to Tudo Lomez.

[Begin recording] [Lomez] It is a very volatile, very explosive situation, and a great deal of credit must go to the local community leaders and ministers, including student leaders who have been able to hold the people together. They are incensed by the harassment that they claim come from the police and security forces who used teargas and other means to get at the people quite unnecessarily, they believe, for instance, at funerals and things of that kind.

[Lomez] What did you say, what were you able to say to the people of Alexandra?

[Tutu] At the stadium where there were probably 30,000 people, we assured them that the churches were with them and we were concerned. We reminded them that there was no question at all about the ultimate victory of our cause and then said that because we were going to win, they must be disciplined people, and therefore would disperse from the stadium in an orderly fashion, they would not kill one another using methods of which we would be ashamed in the future, that they would allow their parents to go back to work — these were the students, — and they did agree initially also that they were going to go back to school. Subsequently they said no, they were fearing to be harassed by the police, and they wanted assurances that they could identify their dead at the mortuary without falling foul of the law, as it were, and running the gauntlet of police wrath.

[Lomez] Can you assure the security forces after your contacts in Alexandra that the people there will go peacefully back to their homes if the security forces withdraw?

[Tutu] Of course, I can not give an absolute guarantee but I know that in the past, such as the one that we had today would pass off reasonably peacefully. I mean there have been very emotional gatherings such as funerals at Uitenhage and elsewhere, where when the police have kept a low profile, the people have in fact behaved impecably and that is what we tried to impress on the police when we met with them and we had a very good meeting with Brigadier (Venitch) and his associates and said for instance, if they could stay out of the township tonight the chances were that there would be no untoward incidents. Now, we are obviously praying very hard that nothing does happen and I learned that the security forces have in fact been withdrawn.

[Lomez] What is your message to the government of President Botha at this time about what is happening in Alexandra, which is of course just one of many, many such outbreaks in the country?

[Tutu] It is the same message that we have kept giving: Until we get rid of apartheid, of in fact, you know, of oppression, anything else we do is peripheral.

Schools Empty, Residents at Work

MB191157 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1148 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Johannesburg, Feb 19, SAPA — All schools at unresttorn Alexandra township were deserted today following four days of rioting. The township was quiet with most people having returned to work after staying away for two days. Shops were also operating normally.

A few members of the security forces were still patrolling the township and others were keeping watch at factories situated at the border of the township which had been targets of petrol bombers.

Yesterday Bishop Desmond Tutu called on the residents to return to work today and all pupils to return to their classes.

SAP Accused of Demanding Medical Info

MB181117 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1110 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Johannesburg, Feb 18, SAPA — Security forces have been accused of trying to force medical staff at the Alexandra Health Centre to hand over "confidential" information about patients treated for unrest-related injuries. The accusations have been made by the National Medidcal and Dental Association.

Asked to comment, a police spokesman in Pretoria said that "during the normal course of their investigations, detectives did visit the Alexandra Health Centre and questioned personnel."

The centre had treated about 10 patients for "penetration injuries" every day since Saturday, when the violence broke out, it was learned.

Staff at the centre, fearing the possibility of reprisals for alleged "co-operation" with police, said in a statement today that they would not give any third party, including the police, access to patients' medical records unless they wre compelled to do so by subpoena.

The health centre staff refused to hand over any information and the security forces then subpoenaed the health centre to submit information about patients.

"NAMDA [National Medical and Dental Association] opposes the interference of the security forces in the health services. Those injured, or ill, should be free to use the health services knowing that they will not be subjected to victimisation, harassment, imprisonment or any other form of activity by the security forces.

"The medical and other health-related professions must stand firm in opposing any intervention by the security forces into the health services.

Committee members who believe that health personnel have incorrectly handed over information to the security forces, or co-operated with them, to the detriment of their patients, should contact NAMDA or report the incident to the South African Medical and Dental Council," the spokesman said.

It was later established that the subpoena referred to in the NAMDA statement had been withdrawn. A spokesman for the South African Medical and Dental Council was unavailable for comment.

Police Use Teargas Against KwaMashu Students

MB181316 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpt] There has been tension and unrest in several Natal townships over dissatisfaction with local schools, following a number of boycotts at Durban schools since last week. Carmel Rickard has the details.

[Rickard] Police used teargas and birdshot in KwaMashu this morning after a [words indistinct] of students gathered outside the local curcuit inspector's office. They were complaining about the nonarrival of textbooks and stationery. According to students in the area, a committee for KwaMashu consisting of the local curcuit inspector, the mayor, a parent, a teacher, and student representative will be going to the KwaZulu capital of Ulundi tomorrow. They want to discuss a number of issues, including a student demand that student representative councils be allowed to operate legally on school campuses.

Man Killed, Policemen Injured

MB191156 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1131 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Durban, Feb 19, SAPA — A man was shot dead and two policeman injured during unrest in KwaMashu yesterday afternoon.

Police said the man was shot dead after a mob had stoned a police vehicle in patrol in the township. Two policemaen were injured after being struck by stones. Private vehicles were also stoned and a bakery van was burned.

Police used tear gas to disperse the mob, who were on their way to a meeting at the soccer stadium to protest against school fees.

Police said the situation was back to normal in the township today.

'Intimidators' Force Pupils From Garankuwa School

MB190948 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0938 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Garankuwa, Feb 19, SAPA — Incidents of unrest occurred in Mabopane township in Garankuwa today as intimidators forced pupils to leave their classrooms, two buses were hijacked and a local authority's offices was gutted by fire.

Youths hijacked the buses, which were later found with all the windows missing. Burning tyres scattered in the streets blocked the smooth flow of traffic. The superintendent's administration offices and a water tanker were gutted by fire.

4 Killed, 4 Injured in Vaal Reefs Mine Incident

MB190950 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0935 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 19, SAPA — Four employees were killed and four others injured in an incident involving team leaders and workers at Vaal Reefs gold mine, near Klerksdorp, last night. All the dead and injured were team leaders, a spokesman for the mine said today.

The cause of the incident, which took place at the east division No 5 shaft hostel between 2100 and 2200, is being investigated by the mine management and the police.

Two Killed in Soweto for Being Informers

MB181400 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1359 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Johannesburg, Feb 18, SAPA — Two people were killed when they were doused with petrol and set alight by a group of youths who accused them of being informers in two separate incidents in Soweto yesterday.

In the first incident a 65-year-old grandmother, Mrs Mary Sikosana, of White City Jabavu was set alight at her home by a group of youths who accused her of being a sell-out.

In the second incident another group of youths attacked a 23-year-old man of Emdeni township after accusing him, also, of being an informer.

Fully dressed, he was also doused with petrol and set alight not far from his home. When the police arrived on the scene he had already died.

No arrests have been made in both cases.

Police Patrol Witbank; Residents Stay at Home

MB191356 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1355 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Witbank, Feb 19, SAPA — Police said the SADF was on patrol in the black township at Witbank today and companies reported an almost total stayaway by black workers.

A spokesman for the police directorate of public relations in Pretoria said the Witbank township was "quiet" today, the only incident being the burning of an Indian's house by arsonists.

The army was deployed in Witbank last night. Police were patrolling the city centre in twos and threes, a resident said, and several shops were closed.

A resident said groups were intimidating commuters and shopkeepers and very few black people had gone to town this week.

"They go into the shops and any black staff they find working, they order them out," she said. "And blacks are warned if they come to work, their homes are going to be set on fire."

A spokesman for supermarket chains said all the black members of staff had stayed away. White temporary workers and schoolchildren had been employed, he said.

Police Issue Latest Unrest Situation Reports

Late 18 Feb

MB181717 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1716 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 18, SAPA — Following is the SA police 7pm unrest situation report:

"Witwatersrand

"In Alexandra this morning a mob of blacks attacked a police vehicle with petrol-bombs. Not less than six petrol-bombs were thrown at the police vehicle. The SA police had made use of shotguns to disperse the attackers. Two black males above 18 and one black male under 18 were fatally wounded. Six black females and five black males, all under 18, were also arrested in this incident for public violence.

"Stones had also been thrown at private vehicles as well as at the SAP in various other incidents. A private vehicle was also set alight by arsonists.

"Isolated incidents of intimidation also occured. The police made use of tear smoke to disperse the mobs. A black male under 18 was arrested at an illegal gathering. The rest of the gathering had been dispersed peacefully. Since before noon it has been all quiet in the area.

Various incidents of robbery and looting of delivery vehicles and stonethrowing incidents at buses and police vehicles took place in KwaMashu near Durban today. A police vehicle was petrol-bombed and a private vehicle was set alight by arsonists. One black male above 18 was fatally wounded by the SAP during stonethrowing attacks at the SAP. Another black male, above 18, was wounded and arrested.

"In the South Western Districts near Hanover, a school was set alight by arsonists.

"At Kabokweni, a petrol bomb was thrown at a member of the SAP's private home and a black woman was injured in a stone-throwing incident.

"In Tembisa two delivery vehicles were destroyed after arsonists set it alight."

End report.

Early 19 Feb

MB190637 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0633 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Pretoria, Feb 19, SAPA — The following is the 8am unrest report from the police directorate of Public Relations in Pretoria:

"The following incidents of unrest were reported overnight:

"At Zwide near Port Elizabeth police used shotgun fire to disperse mobs when a police vehicle was petrol-bombed and a private home was stoned.

"At the black residential area near Knsna, a bus and a private vehicle were extensively damaged by arsonists.

"A mob was dispersed with tearsmoke when a police vehicle was petrol-bombed.

"At Soweto (Witwatersrand) a motorcycle and a private vehicle were extensively damaged by arsonists."

"In the white residential area, West End, Kimberley, a private dwelling was stoned by a mob of blacks. No damage was caused.

"At Venterspos, black residential area near Krugersdorp the South African police dispersed a mob which was stoning them, with shotgun fire, rubber bullets and tearsmoke.

"At the gold mine the SAP used shotgun fire to disperse a mob when they were stoned. Five people were wounded. Sixteen people were injured by the mob.

"At Atteridgeville (near Pretoria) three private homes were damaged by petrol bombs."

Ends report.

Durban's First Integrated Bus Service Approved

MB130821 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0745 GMT 13 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Durban, Feb 13, SAPA — Durban won approval for its first integrated bus service yesterday when the local road transportation board agreed to allow the green-line buses, previously reserved for Indians, Coloureds and blacks, to be used by all races on some route.

All blue-line buses remain reserved for whites.

Mr Alan Bray, acting general manager for the Durban Transport Management Board [DTMB], said the green-line buses had been desegregated with immediate effect.

Mr David Bennett, transportation committee chairman, said: We have been making similar applications over the years and they have been habitually rejected.

"The board rejected the previous applications almost immediately, but this time they postponed a decision and now some three to five months after the application was made, have made a favourable decision. I would speculate that it was enhanced by the present stance of the government in these matters," Mr Bennet said.

Stellenbosch Receives Check for Multiracial Hostel

MB122110 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1930 GMT 12 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Cape Town, Feb 12, SAPA — As a first step to what could become fully racially integrated hostels on its campus, Stellenbosch University today accepted a R1-million cheque to build a hostel complex for black, Indian and coloured students.

The cheque was presented to the rector, Professor Mike de Vries, by the chairman and chief executive of the Gold Fields Foundation, Mr Robin Plumbridge, at a function at the university.

In a carefully worded statement, Prof de Vries said that since 1978, when the university opened its doors conditionally to students of other race groups, the number of coloured students had increased constantly.

"Due to further recent revision of the university's rules for enrollment, the intake of coloured students has doubled this year, resulting in inadequate accommodation for coloured and black students."

Prof de Vries said that in order to meet this pressing need coloured, black and Indian students would "for the time being" receive preference when accommodation in the new complex was allocated.

Mr Plumbridge said there clearly was a need for universities to broaden and cater for all racial groups.

'There are sensitivities when it comes to the residential side but I am sure these will disapper very quickly when one gets a meeting of minds of people with similar intellects. I believe this project will act as a catalyst at this university.

"The university's policy of opening to other races is clearly indicative of the direction all academic institutions must go and in fact that's the way the country's going."

Press Examines Current Issues, Problems

[Editorial Report] PFP's 'Young Lions'

Johannesburg *THE SUNDAY STAR* in English on 16 February carries a front-page report by David Breier which says the election of the "young lions" Peter Gastrow, Ken Andrew and Robin Carlisle to high-visibility PFP positions was a "blow to the more 'traditional' wing of the PFP, represented by men such as Mr Harry Schwarz and Mr Horace van Rensburg." It indicates "the PFP will now concentrate more boldly than before on issues outside the parliamentary system and will be less confined to its traditional 'tame' role in Parliament." The PFP's new role "will include monitoring excessive violence by the security forces and keeping closer contact with the grievances of black community organisations, including those affiliated to the United Democratic Front (UDF)."

'Child Warriors' Described

"Political differences are turning brother against brother in the townships of Port Elizabeth," Ken Vernon says on page 4. Reporting on violence in which at least 8 people have died in the last few days, Vernon interviewed a number of members of the Azanian National Youth Unity (AZANYU) who are staying at a "safe" house in another township. The youths claimed they were attacked by a UDF splinter group, and are planning revenge. Mudumiso, a 14-year-old member of AZANYU, "is perhaps typical of many of this new breed of child warriors. He is the product of a broken home, his father is dead and he says his mother is 'somewhere in Cape Town.' " By being a member of the group "he has a chance to survive. Outside of it he believes he has none."

Employment, Population Figures Conflict

Linda Vergnani reports on page 9 that Charles Meth, a lecturer in economics at the University of Natal, has compared two sets of government statistics on black workers and found a discrepancy of about 1,136,000 workers. "'In mining for instance, the current population survey says there are 714,000 black workers, yet the labour statistics say there are 637,000 blacks employed in mining.'" The population survey is based on workers' descriptions of themselves while the employment statistics are obtained from employers. Meth says if all the "missing" workers are added to the official unemployment figures, it would double the estimate.

Botha 'Driving Away' Black Leaders

Jon Qwelane reports on page 9 that Alexandra Mayor Sam Buti has become the latest black leader to refuse to participate in the proposed national statutory council. "Mr Buti says he completely rejects — and will boycott — this approach by the state president." Qwelane notes: "When President Botha aligned himelf with the hardline interpretation of his speech by Transvaal National Party leader, Mr F.W. de Klerk, he inadvertently drove away even those leaders who might have considered participating in the proposed council."

Boraine on Getting Out

Commenting on his decison to resign from Parliament, Alex Boraine says on page 15: "There is a direct link between the Tricameral Parliament and the unrest, the deaths, the injuries and the destruction which have taken place during 1985." He adds that the new constitution "has actually eroded the credibility of Parliament which it once enjoyed among large groups of coloured and Indian South Africans."

Government Fears on Mandela

David Breier says on page 15 that the main hurdle to the release of Nelson Mandela is "his refusal to go into exile." The government is afraid that if he is released internally, "his presence would promote a monumental local reaction of unpredictable proportions." By releasing Mandela the government could gain international credibility, a favorable rescheduling of the foreign debt, and some local goodwill. "But if it has to release Mr Mandela internally, the government fears it could lose control of the country."

PFP 'New Blood'

In a report on the front page of Johannesburg *SUNDAY TIMES* in English on 16 February on the meeting to elect Colin Eglin as leader of the PFP political correspondent Max du Preez notes that "a significant feature" of the lections is the "new blood in the hierarchy of the party — all under 45 years old." One "rising star" is Peter Gastrow, who became the PFP's national chairman. Du Preez adds that "a party congress is now scheduled for August to elect a new leadership — and there is already strong suggestion that Mr Gastrow will make a bid for the top spot."

AWB Military Force

Stephan Terblanche reports on page 7 that the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (Afrikaner Resistance Movement, AWB), "plans to establish a military type force which, it claims, will number thousands. The 'commando' would be used to 'defend the interests of whites in South Africa.' " AWB leader Eugene TerreBlanche said "members of the force — who would be required to dress in khaki for meetings — would be trained in handling emergencies, explosions, fires and communications."

Violence in Port Elizabeth

Allan Soule reports on page 9 on a "brutal resurgence of politically rooted inter-faction violence" in Port Elizabeth's black townships. The violence was the result of "an unlikely peace pact" between the United Democratic Front (UDF) and the Azanian People's Organization (AZAPO), which caused "hardline radicals" in both organizations to break away and form dissident groups. Five of the eight political activists killed in the fighting are believed to have been members of the UDF's dissident faction, which calls itself the "'Young ANC,'" while the other three were members of a branch of Azanian National Youth Unity (AZANU) established in Port Elizabeth by AZAPO dissidents. An AZANU leader claimed the dead "were all victims of a blitz aimed at purging the township of political opposition" and added that 95 refugees are now holed up in New Brighton.

Port Elizabeth Ungovernable

In his "Another View" column on page 14, Ken Owen writes that the ANC's campaign to make South Africa ungovernable has virtually succeeded in the eastern Cape. Two-thirds of the community councils in the eastern Cape have collapsed and two out of four black local authorities have ceased to function. "Police and army units patrol the streets, but the law which prevails is the of the jungle: People are tried by kangaroo courts, without any of the safeguards that civilisation has developed in its search for justice, and executed on street corners. The security forces go around afterwards to pick up the corpses." The government is unable to collect rents and officials "are looting capital development funds for current expenditure, a fundamental corruption of the principles of good government which has recently manifested itself in the central government, too."

Slabbert Defends Resignation

In a column on page 15 defending his resignation, Fredrik van Zyl Slabbert responds to criticism over the timing of his resignation by saying that he preferred to resign "quickly while Parliament was in session and the PFP could carry on its work. Because it has to carry on. Apartheid has to be opposed and exposed for what it is in Parliament as well. I have always said so and say so now." Although he admits that he did "betray the hopes of the people" by resigning, "to keep some of those hopes alive by continuing would have been to delude those who cherished those hopes. To simply sit there gathering full pension and become exhibit A for the Government's sense of democracy would have been a supreme act of self-indulgence."

Open Education Urged

Johannesburg *THE STAR* in English on 17 February carries an "edited" version of Horace van Rensburg's, Progressive Federal Party member of Parliament from Bryanston, speech during the no-confidence debate. Rensburg urges the quick death of apartheid, perhaps by "firing squad at dawn" and says "every Cabinet Minister must deliver a fatal shot to apartheid because every Cabinet Minister has some apartheid in his department that must be eliminated." He then suggests the creation of a Department of Open Education to allow for the creation of open schools. "All existing schools could be given the right to choose by way of a decision of their parent bodies whether they wish to remain under their existing departments or fall under the Department of Open Education." He urges the government, since it "finds it impossible to accept our urgent representations for the opening of all education," to consider his suggestion as an "interim compromise arrangement."

STAR Supports Rensburg

In an editorial on page 12, the *STAR* urges support for Rensburg's proposal, saying, "Nonracial education is the only ultimate guarantee of equal education; this would be at least a start towards it."

Council Attacks Started Riots

Johannesburg *SOWETAN* in English on 17 February carries a front-page report by Mojalefa Moseki and Vusi Radebe which says the rioting began in Alexandra on Saturday "when young mourners attacked the homes and businesses of town council members. Cars, commercial vehicles and buses were damaged by the mobs, who sang freedom songs and raised clenched fist salutes." It was after this, when mourners returned to the homes of the dead for the traditional washing of hands, that police opened fire with tearsmoke and rubber bullets. The reports adds that the house of a detective and a local businessman were set alight in the Ackerville township near Witbank, and pamphlets have been distributed in that area "calling on residents to stay away from work" on Monday.

Church Raid Condemned

In its editorial on page 4, the *SOWETAN* condemns the police action against youths at the Wilgespruit church center when helicopters and cars opened fire on children taking refuge there. "The chief of the police responsible for this unhappy incident should be carpeted at best, or sacked at worst. It is totally irresponsible behaviour which exposes the police to ridicule and attack." The apartheid system is turning children "into angry anti-social people who do not care for their own safety" and who are "hateful fighters," it warns.

Eglin Rejects ANC Violence

Tony Stirling reports on page 10 that Colin Eglin has indicated "he would only be prepared to see the ANC included in constitutional negotiation if it rejected violence." Eglin confirmed that a "clear part of the PFP's future strategy would be to try to get constitutional negotiations going through broadening the Party's base outside of Parliament."

DIE TRANSVALER on PFP

Pretoria *DIE TRANSVALER* in Afrikaans on 17 February 86 says in an editotial on page 10 that "it is meaningful that the Federal Council of the Progressive Federal Party [PFP] has emphasized that it will take a more active part in extraparliamentary activity." Whether the PFP, with its clashing internal factions, is capable of playing a meaningful role outside Parliament is another matter. It cannot be doubted that the debate on the future of South Africa has shifted to a sphere outside Parliament to a greater degree, but in the interests of orderliness, any action aimed at undermining the authority of Parliament should be nipped in the bud.

Civilian Antilandmine Vehicles

Johannesburg *RAPPORT* in Afrikaans on 16 February says on page 4 "that farmers and people on the borders of South Africa and South-West Africa may soon be able to buy specially developed antilandmine vehicles to protect them from terrorist attacks." The South African Bureau of Standards is busy with specifications for such vehicles to be used by civilians.

Suzman on Reform Hopes

Neil Jacobsohn interviews PFP member Helen Suzman on page 4 on the parliamentary role of the PFP. Suzman says: "'Obviously we cannot repeal the apartheid laws that we would like to. But what we can do is allow nothing to go by default, to highlight government' idiotic actions — such as the Moutse affair — and to hold government answerable for its sins and omissions.'" She notes that extraparliamentary actions such as strikes and consumer boycotts "'will undoubtedly be increasingly potent, but ironically enough, only so long as blacks are employed and have increasing consumer power.'" She adds: "'We are in for a long, hard hoe in this country. Young blacks who think that 'liberation is around the corner' will learn that nothing is further from the truth. We are in for a long period of attrition, with increasing urban violence and a government which, if not displaced, will meet the situation with tougher police and military action. That to my mind is what we really have to do — to show the white electorate that this is the scenario unless we act to change it.'"

Heunis on Local Powersharing

Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning Chris

Heunis told Parliament on Monday that "it is imperative that self-determination and power-sharing without domination be established at local government level," *THE STAR* reports on page 4. He said local government and the joint provision of service by Regional Services Councils would be "an important part of any constitutional future for South Africa."

Moutse Opposition 'Shrewd Politics'

In an editorial on page 14 *THE STAR* says the Indian and colored houses of Parliament are "playing shrewd politics" by opposing the incorporation of Moutse into KwaNdebele. They are "showing solidarity with black protest and forcing the government to weigh its obstinacy on Moutse against the value of continued co-operation from the coloured and Indian groups." "How the Government responds will say much about its own view of its institution: the tricameral Parliament."

Hunger Striker in Hospital

Johannesburg *SOWETAN* in English on 18 February reports on page 1 that Ronald Swart, a Kliptown teacher who was detained under the state of emergency regulations last year, and who was participating in a hunger strike at Diepkloof Prison last week has been admitted to Johannesburg hospital. South African Police said they had no knowledge of the incident.

Police Urged To Keep Out

In its editorial on page 4, the *SOWETAN* says the violence in Alexandra township is cause for grave concern and the "ham-handed way in which security forces handle funerals in townships is rather irresponsible." "The police are not showing restraint and careful handling of these emotional situations. They should therefore stay away from funerals."

UDF Rejects Role in Killings

"The United Democratic Front [UDF] has rejected police claims that its members were responsible for the death of two people in Port Elizabeth recently," the *SOWETAN* reports on page 5. UDF executive member Mkhuseli Jack said it was "'absolute nonsense'" that his organisation's supporters killed two Azanian National Youth Unity Members. The Azanian People's Organization has also denied any involvement in the killings.

ZAMBIA

ANC Spokesman Says 40 Refugees Arrive From Lesotho

MB171842 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] A spokesman for the African National Congress said today that 40 more men and women refugees have been expelled from Lesotho by that country's military government. He said the 40 are now in the country and they arrived over the weekend. The spokesman, who was speaking in an interview, said the Lesotho military ruler, Major General Justin Lekhanya, declared the refugees unwanted persons and they were taken out of Lesotho by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. The first group of 67 women and children was flown out of Maseru soon after the coup which overthrew Prime Minister Chief Leabua Jonathan.

ZIMBABWE

Lesotho Mission Meets Banana, Leaves for Tanzania

MB131705 Maseru Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 13 Feb 86

[Text] The president of Zimbabwe, His Excellency Rev Canaan Banana, yesterday received a 6-man Lesotho delegation currently on a special mission to six southern African countries, led by Lieutenant Colonel Thaabe Letsie, a member of the Military Council of Lesotho.

The delegation arrived in Harare yesterday morning from Lusaka, Zambia, to deliver a special message from his majesty to President Banana. During discussions, President Banana said that his government had followed events in Lesotho with keen interest, as the two nations had a common history and destination as southern African countries, and as members of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, SADCC.

The president said Zimbabwe was fully conscious of Lesotho's position as a landlocked country. He expressed the hope that the new administration in Lesotho continue cooperating with Zimbabwe to facilitate economic development of the southern African region. He also hoped that the new administration in Lesotho would respond to the needs and wishes of the Basotho nation, and to respect their democratic rights to solve their own problems.

The Lesotho delegation also met the Zimbabwean minister of foreign affairs, Dr Witness Mangwende, and other senior officials of the Zimbabwean Government, before proceeding to Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania yesterday afternoon, where they held talks last night with the Tanzanian first vice president and prime minister, Mr Joseph Warioba, and other senior Tanzanian Government officials.

The delegation conveyed a special message from his majesty to President Ali Hassan Mwinyi, which, it is believed, briefed the Tanzanian leader on the situation in Lesotho. During discussions, Prime Minister Warioba told the Lesotho delegation that it was the obligation of all Africa to assist Lesotho to ease the burden caused by the presence of South African refugees in Lesotho. He added that Tanzania was aware of Lesotho's limitations in security and economic resources, and would do her best to assist where possible.

Also in Dar es Salaam talks were held between the Lesotho delegation and a delegation from the Pan-Africanist Congress, PAC, of South Africa concerning the welfare and treatment of refugees in Lesotho.

The delegation left Dar es Salaam this morning for talks with the Mozambican Government in Maputo.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 FEBRUARY 1986

King Husayn Speech

Jordan cannot continue to "coordinate politically" with the PLO leaders until such time as "their word becomes their bond, characterized by commitment, credibility and constancy," Jordan's King Husayn announced in an address to the nation broadcast by Amman television 19 February. The PLO leaders had "surprised" Jordan by their refusal to accept UN Security Council Resolution 242 in exchange for U.S. assurances which reflected a "significant change in the U.S. position in favor of the PLO," the king said. Jordan had assumed the PLO would accept the U.S. assurances, contained in a written commitment to accept PLO participation at an international conference when it is clearly on the public record that the PLO has accepted Resolutions 242 and 338, is prepared to negotiate with Israel, and has renounced terrorism. However, the PLO leaders insisted on their demand that the United States recognize Palestinian self-determination in return for the PLO's acceptance of Resolution 242, he noted, and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Amman 7 February still adhering to this position. The latest phase of political action with the PLO thus ended differently from what Jordan had hoped for, Husayn stressed, though he added that the principles of the Jordanian-Palestinian accord will still be the basis of relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples "with regard to equality of rights and obligations."

Israeli Reaction

Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres reacted favorably to King Husayn's speech, IDF radio reported, noting Peres' view that Husayn was acknowledging that the PLO is an obstacle to peace. In a Jerusalem television interview, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said the king's remarks could provide a "historic opportunity" for the inhabitants of the occupied territories to rid themselves of the PLO and join Husayn in a negotiating process with Israel and without the PLO.

Lebanon

An Islamic Resistance spokesman informed the Beirut office of the UAE paper *AL-ITTIHAD* that his organization has carried out its threat to execute one of the two Israeli hostages, Beirut radio announced during the evening of 19 February. Jerusalem radio subsequently disclosed that the IDF would continue searching 16 Shi'ite villages in southern Lebanon 20 February, noting that top IDF sources have said the searches will continue until the fate of the two hostages has been unequivocally determined. Four "terrorists" were killed during a clash with IDF soldiers searching the village of Haris 19 February, the radio reported earlier. An Amal official cited by Beirut radio acknowledged that four Amal members were killed in battles with the Israelis in Haris, adding that eight other Amal fighters were wounded.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi forces on the Al Faw front continue to advance "considerable distances" toward the coast, INA reported 20 February. Iraq also claimed that Iranian forces suffered "very heavy losses" in counterattacks in the area 19 February, according to an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. The communique disclosed that Iraqi planes meanwhile hit the Ganaveh oil pipeline intersection, an Iranian naval command center on Dara Island, and a C-130 plane. INA later reported that Iraqi aircraft shot down an F-4 and another C-130 plane 20 February, while Voice of the Masses announced that the Iraqi Navy sank four supply ships and a gunboat 19 February.

In contrast, Iran claimed that its forces "completely smashed" three Iraqi counterattacks on the Al-Faw-Umm Qasr road the night of 18-19 February, according to a military statement reported by Tehran radio. IRNA said three more Iraqi planes were shot down over the battle area 20 February, bring to 45 the total Iraqi warplanes lost in the latest offensive. Earlier, an Iranian military spokesman denied that Iraq shot down a C-130 and F-5 19 February, IRNA reported. IRNA also reported that 8,500 people have been injured as a result of Iraq's renewed use of chemical weapons.

In diplomatic developments, Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i said in a Tehran radio interview that the current UN Security Council session on the war "has no value for us" and that its outcome is a foregone conclusion. In Bahrain, a Khamene'i envoy told the amir that Iran has "no covetous designs" on Iraq or any other country's territory. The envoy added that Iran will "curtail the hands of the aggressor" if Iraq threatens Kuwait's "territorial integrity," an IRNA report on the meeting added. In Paris, the Kuwaiti ambassador said that Kuwait would "very firmly retaliate against any aggression, and Iran knows this very well," KUNA reported. The envoy said the Kuwaiti Army is on maximum alert "because we sense the entire region is in danger," the report noted.

Libya-Chad

Libyan and GUNT forces are strengthening their positions in northern Chad while Libyan planes are daily overflying positions held by Chadian Government troops along the 16th Parallel, AFP reported citing the Chadian information minister.

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KUWAIT

Information Minister Denies Iranians Land on Bubiyan

LD201122 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1106 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Feb (KUNA) — Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Jabir today categorically denied reports circulating abroad about an Iranian military landing on the island of Bubiyan.

Amir Visits Faylakah Island Defenses

LD201035 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic
1000 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] The Amir of Kuwait and supreme commander of the Army and Armed Forces this morning visited Faylakah Island where he inspected a number of our Armed Forces' defense positions.

He was accompanied by Minister of Defense Shaykh Salim al-Sabah and a number of senior Army officers.

Upon his arrival at the island, he was welcomed by the metropolitan governor, Shaykh Jabir al-'Abdallah al-Jabir al-Sabah and the island's mukhtar and a number of citizens.

Later, the amir visited the Faylakah Island nursery school where he was welcomed by the under secretary of the Ministry of Education, 'Abd al-Rahman al-Khudari.

The pupils of the school put on some shows and performed some national dances. The director of the nursery delivered a welcoming speech.

The amir thanked them and urged them to exert efforts to bring up a generation that believes in God and the homeland.

Thereupon, the amir and his companions left the island to a great sendoff.

Foreign Minister Receives Sudanese Official

LD191533 Kuwait KUNA in English 1417 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 19 (KUNA) — Acting premier and foreign minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad received here Wednesday Assistant Chairman of the Sudanese Transitional Military Council General Taj Eddin Fadel Abdullah.

Discussions at the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and current Arab developments.

The Sudanese official briefed Shaykh Sabah on latest developments in southern Sudan.

The meeting was attended by director of Shaykh Sabah's office Abdullah Saud al Abdul Razzak and the Sudanese Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammed al Amin Abdullah.

OMAN

Jordanian Industry, Trade Minister Arrives

GF161420 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Raja'i al-Mu'ashir, Jordanian minister of industry and trade, and his accompanying delegation arrived today on a 4-day official visit to the sultanate. During the visit the minister will hold talks with a number of senior officials in the sultanate, particularly those in the trade and economic fields, on bilateral relations and on means to develop and bolster these relations.

Talks Begin

GF161728 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Official talks began at the Al-Bustan hotel tonight between the Omani side, led by Staff Colonel Salim ibn 'Abdallah al-Ghazali, minister of industry and commerce; and the Jordanian side, led by Dr Raja'i al-Mu'ashir, Jordanian minister of industry and trade, who is currently visiting the country.

In a statement following the talks, Staff Colonel Salim ibn 'Abdallah al-Ghazali said that they discussed the terms of the agreement which is expected to be signed between the two sides during the Jordanian delegation's visit to the sultanate. The Omani delegation also listened to the Jordanian delegation's proposals on establishing a stockholding company between the two countries. It also listened to a number of ideas regarding certain joint industries which could be set up in the two countries to make use of raw materials.

Trade Agreement Signed

GF181836 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] A trade and economic agreement was signed at the Industry and Commerce Ministry today between the government of the sultanate and the government of the sister Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. His Excellency Staff Colonel Salim ibn 'Abdallah al-Ghazali, minister of industry and commerce, signed on behalf of the sultanate's government and His Excellency Raja'i al-Mu'ashir, Jordanian minister of inudstry and trade, who is currently visiting the country, signed on behalf of the Jordanian Government.

Following the signing of the agreement His Excellency Staff Col Salim ibn 'Abdallah al-Ghazali made a statement to radio, television, and press. He said this agreement is one of the results of the continuous efforts of His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id and his Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, monarch of the sister Jordanian Kingdom. His excellency added that this agreement is a framework through which economic and trade relations are organized and larger vistas in this field are opened between the two countries. He said the most distinctive aspect of this agreement is the setting up of a joint committee which will follow up the development of relations and guide them along the correct path to serve the interests of the peoples of the two fraternal countries.

His Excellency Raja'i al-Mu'ashir, Jordanian minister of industry and trade, also made a statement in which he said that his talks with the officials in the sultanate concentrated on various issues, the most important being the approval of the final agreement which was signed today between the two countries, and the possibility of setting joint projects between the private sectors in the two countries. The Jordanian minister said an agreement was also reached on the need to study the concept of establishing a joint company which will define the projects to be executed in future and set forth the plans for bilateral cooperation between the private sectors in the two countries.

Discussion was also held on a number of issues dealing with increasing the size of trade exchange and urging the private sectors in the two countries to import the necessities of the two countries from each other. His excellency added that they also reviewed the possibility of cooperating in agricultural technology and in joint projects which serve the Jordanian and Omani farmer.

The signing ceremonies were attended by 'Abdallah Tay, director of the Legal Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Trade Minister Concludes Visit

GF190908 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic
0700 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Raja'i al-Mu'ashir, Jordanian minister of industry and trade, left Oman today following a 4-day visit, during which he held meetings with senior Omani officials.

The visiting minister was seen off by 'Abd al-Hafiz Salim Rajab, minister of agriculture and fisheries, and Sa'id ibn Nasir al-Khusaybi, executive director of the general board for marketing agricultural products.

PDRY

Deputy Chairman Says Abyan Secure, Stable

GF191908 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Muhammad 'Awad al-Sa'di, deputy chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, today in Abyan Governorate met with the heads of our diplomatic corps posted abroad. Brother al-Sa'di briefed them on the effects of the bloody 13 January events, the nature of the situation in the governorate, the individual practices of conspirator Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad, the mass arrests of party and military cadres and citizens and their liquidation through collective assasination, the attempts to frighten the citizens, and the liquidation of the economic accomplishments which had been achieved by the toiling masses of the governorate.

He told them that the governorate is now secure and stable and that the governorate is gradually restoring its normal life. He said that the governorate's leadership is currently working to eliminate the effects of the conspiracy, to (?carry on) with economic and development projects, to provide food supplies, and to facilitate the return of those who were misled.

The heads of the diplomatic corps inspected a number of locations where Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad committed his fascist crimes and the mass graves of the best strugglers of our party and sons of our people.

Chairman Visits Foreign Ministry, Comments on Policy

GF191440 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Brother Engineer Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the YSP Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, visited the Foreign Ministry today. He was received by Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Political Bureau and foreign minister; and Muhammad 'Ali 'Imayah, deputy foreign minister; and other officials at the ministry.

The brother chairman met with the ministry leadership and directors of ministry departments and reviewed with them current developments, and the futile coupist conspiracy which was carried out by conspirator 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his fascist clique and the results of this conspiracy on the domestic and external levels.

The chairman reviewed with the ministry leadership our foreign policy and the importance of carrying out political and diplomatic activity with fraternal and friendly countries, adhering to a line which is far removed from the two-sided stances which were adopted by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. He said our foreign policy will remain firm and based on the principles of peaceful coexistence, international solidarity, mutual respect, and noninterference in the domestic affairs of others. He stressed the determination to develop our relations with all countries of the region out of concern for the interests of our people and their security and stability. He also affirmed the importance of bolstering the role of our diplomatic corps abroad and the activities of our foreign policy in order to present a clear picture of the 13 January events and their nature, in a way which the role and activities will be based on facts and will represent our stances toward all those countries which have diplomatic relations with us.

He said that attempts to put an end to the revolution from inside and outside had failed. He highly evaluated the stances of the brethren and friends who sympathized with the ordeal which our people experienced. He particularly appreciated the principled and firm stances of the Soviet Union which has always supported the struggle of our people in all circumstances. He pointed out the pride of our party, country, and people for relations between our two countries and the development of these relations according to the friendship and cooperation treaty between the two friendly countries.

Assistant Secretary General Meets Local Officials

GF200736 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
0330 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, called on the leaders of the YSP organization in Al-Dali' District to double their practical and sincere efforts in order to achieve tangible progress, to build the economy, and to heal the deep wounds that have afflicted our country's children as a result of the brutal and destructive actions carried out by the coupists and murderers.

This took place yesterday during brother Salim Salih Muhammad's meeting with members of the YSP organization in Al-Dali' District, the directors of the government, security, and defense departments, the assistant administrative officers in the subdistricts, the organizers of services in the YSP ranks, and the families of the glorious martyrs who fell victim to the unsuccessful coupist plot engineered by the agent 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his murderous adventurous gang in January 1986.

During the meeting, brother Salim Salih spoke of the present situation in our country and the urgent task of the party, leadership, and primary organizations to alleviate the destructive effects left by the coupist attempt on the country's situation and the economy.

He referred to the correct measures adopted by the YSP Central Committee for this purpose which sincerely expressed the YSP's unity in difficult circumstances and its superlative ability to confront the difficult confrontation and the challenges under the revolution's leadership.

The brother assistant secretary general pointed out that the treasonous agents have not succeeded in overthrowing the system and government and controlling the party and the people by force of arms. He said that for this reason they will act to undermine the [words indistinct], and the process of social and economic development. For this reason combat readiness must be elevated among the party and the people and greater efforts must be made in the field of economic and social construction in order to secure the completion of the national revolution's tasks and its socialist prospects. He said that this depends on the adoption of a new attitude toward work, surmounting the effects left by the agent 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, fighting extravagance, protecting public property, and the making of exceptional efforts in order to increase and improve production so that we will be able to guarantee the revolution's safety and unite the pillars of the nationalist, democratic struggle in our country.

The meeting was attended by brother Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, candidate member of the YSP Political Bureau and minister of defense; brother Dr Ahmad 'Abdallah 'Abd al-Ilah, member of the YSP secretary and first secretary of the YSP organization in Lahij Governorate; Ghazi 'Aqlan, member of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the executive bureau of the local people's council in the governorate; a number of YSP Central Committee members; and members of the [word indistinct] governorate's committee.

Lebanese Communist Party Leader Arrives

GF200447 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
0330 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Action Organization, arrived in Aden at dawn today on a visit to the PDRY that will last several days. He will hold talks with a number of leading party and state officials which will deal with relations between the YSP and the Lebanese Communist Action Organization.

He was received at the airport by Brother Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, member of the YSP Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, and a number of brother officials at the YSP Central Committee Secretariat.

YSP Official Meets With GDR, Cuban Envoys

GF201347 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Dr Salim 'Umar Bukayr, YSP Central Committee member and secretary has met in separate audiences in his office at the YSP Central Committee Secretariat with the GDR charge d'affaires and the cultural attache at the Cuban Embassy in Aden.

During the meetings, he briefed them on the details of the failed coup attempt, which was carried out by conspirator 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his fascist gang on the bloody 13 January events.

He highly valued their countries' internationalist stand in solidarity with our party and people and their honest support for our country in all fields, particularly educational, cultural, and media fields. He also valued the developing relations between our party and the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the Cuban Communist Party. He emphasized that the future would witness further development of these relations.

Also during the meeting they discussed the return of GDR and Cuban advisers to work in the educational, cultural, and media fields now that the situation in the country has returned to normal.

The GDR charge d'affaires and the Cuban cultural attache expressed their countries' solidarity with our party and people to enable them overcome the hard times our country has passed through. They affirmed the need for growing struggle relations between our party and people and the parties and peoples of the two friendly countries.

YSP Official Receives Ethiopian Ambassador

GF191620 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
230 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, member of the YSP Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, today met in his office with Comrade Tesema Belai, Ethiopian ambassador in Aden. The secretary delivered a message to the ambassador from Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, addressed to Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia, chairman of the provisional military administrative council, and commander in chief of the revolutionary Armed Forces, on cooperation between the two friendly parties and countries.

They also reviewed in an amicable atmosphere a number of issues which concern the YSP and the Workers' Party of Ethiopia, the Ethiopian toilers, and the two friendly countries.

During the meeting they affirmed the importance of continuing to develop and bolster struggle relations between the Yemeni and Ethiopian revolutions and to continue efforts to consolidate the strategic alliance between the two friendly parties, revolutions, and countries.

DFLP's Hawatimah Concludes Visit to Aden

GF191340 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has departed Aden following a visit to our country. During the visit he held meetings and negotiations with party and state leaders to bolster the struggle and comradely relations between the YSP and DFLP and between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions, and to contribute to the strengthening of the steadfastness of the YSP and the PDRY in confronting the effects and results of the bloody 13 January events which were planned and carried out by conspirator 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his adventurous clique.

He was seen off at the airport by Brother Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, member of the YSP Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee.

SAUDI ARABIA

Official on U.S. Moves To Levy Tariff on Crude

GF191502 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 19 Feb 86 p 15

[By Ahmad Hasan]

[Text] The recent move in the U.S. Congress to levy heavy tariffs on crude oil imports has posed serious threats to the Arab economy. This was stated in Abu Dhabi yesterday by Ma'mun-Qurawi, chief of the Economics and Cultural Department at the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Commerce and acting under secretary of the ministry.

He said the challenge should be met with a unified strategy and all possible avenues for viable alternatives should be explored. He, however, added that the AGCC countries were in no hurry to counteract.

Speaking at a seminar organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Intercontinental Hotel, the Saudi official said AGCC's negotiations with the EEC were continuing to resolve the deadlock over tariffs on Gulf petrochemicals.

Mr Qurawi said it was not known to many that only six European companies controlled the market in Europe and several Third World countries. There were 30 European companies manufacturing advanced petrochemicals. However, the six multinationals were so powerful that they were in a position to force governments to take decisions which suited the interests of these companies.

He said the private sector traders in Europe welcomed imports of Arab petrochemicals which sell at relatively cheap prices.

Referring to talks about the boycott of the U.S. market and the withdrawal of AGCC funds from U.S. banks he said it would not be a wise move at present. At the moment it would have more negative than positive consequences, he added.

He said that this was the first time in America's history that a move to impose tariffs on crude oil imports had been made.

Mr Qurawi said the U.S. action had come at a time when the AGCC countries were facing problems in the oil market and their economy was affected by recession.

YAR

Kuwaiti Paper Reports PDRY Delegation in YAR

GF201250 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 19 Feb 86 p 1

[Text] *AL-SIYASAH* has learned that a PDRY delegation led by the minister of state for unity affairs and member of the YSP Central Committee arrived in Sanaa 2 days ago. It is the first PDRY delegation to visit the YAR since the events of 13 January as part of the unity coordination between the two parts of Yemen.

Political circles view that this visit demonstrates the YAR's recognition of the new leadership in Aden.

Husayn Break With PLO Draws Reaction From Leaders

Mubarak, Husayn Talk

NC192027 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2012 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn of Jordan had a telephone conversation this evening. They exchanged views on the region's most important issues.

Contact With PLO Expected

GF201018 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0925 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (WAKH) — An official source at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has refused to comment on the decision announced last night by King Husayn of Jordan on halting political coordination with the PLO.

In a statement to WAKH, the source said that Egypt respects the decisions that every country adopts out of conviction. He said that Egypt hopes that all Arab parties will reconsider their calculations at this critical stage of pan-Arab action and in the light of recent events before existing opportunities to rescue the Arab situation are lost.

The source affirmed that Egypt, on its part, will continue its serious efforts for the sake of the pan-Arab cause.

The source, who asked not to be identified, referred to a previous warning by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak that the Palestinian issue permits no further waiting and hesitation and that the present situation requires all Arabs, particularly the Palestinian leaders, to adopt a clear stand and move fast in the right direction.

It is expected that contacts will be made in the next few hours between Egypt and the PLO leaders.

'Abd al-Majid Comments

NC201452 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Hasan Hamami, Jordan's ambassador to Cairo, today. Following this meeting, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that, under the current circumstances, Egypt is trying to reconcile the Palestinian and Jordanian views. Egypt, he affirmed, is faithfully and earnestly seeking to keep the peace process alive. 'Abd al-Majid also indicated that high-level contacts between President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn of Jordan have taken place in this regard.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid described King Husayn's speech yesterday as a comprehensive one that deserves elaborate study. He added: I would like to emphasize the reference made in this speech to King Husayn's commitment to the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. It is not true that the king has called for the termination of this agreement, as certain press reports have claimed.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid noted that his meeting with the Jordanian ambassador had provided an opportunity to express Egypt's views on this issue. He also voiced the hope that earnest efforts will succeed in eliminating current Arab differences and thereby help to establish a just peace in the Middle East.

In a statement following this meeting, the Jordanian ambassador in Cairo said that he had conveyed to Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid the text of King Husayn's speech, which he had addressed to the Jordanian, Palestinian, and Arab people. He noted that he and Dr 'Abd al-Majid had exchanged views with regard to reactions to this speech. Discussion also dealt with the current Arab situation and the Palestinian issue, he added.

The Jordanian ambassador pointed out that his meeting with Dr 'Abd al-Majid today is part of the continuing consultations between Egypt and Jordan.

'Arafat on Jordan Relations

NC191513 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has emphasized that there is no coolness in Jordanian-Palestinian relations. He added that the three months, during which Jordanian-Palestinian relations were described by some people as cool, constituted one of their most active periods.

In an interview with *AL-MUSAWWAR* magazine to be published in its Friday issue, 'Arafat talked about on the Palestinian and Jordanian views on the international conference. He pointed out that the PLO and Jordan agree that the international conference must be effective and not just for show. He went on to say that such a conference must be attended by all the permanent member states of the Security Council, as well as all parties concerned in the Middle East conflict, including the PLO. 'Arafat said that an agreement had been reached with Jordan to the effect that a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation would take part in negotiations. 'Arafat welcomed the idea of forming a unified Arab delegation to such a conference.

'Arafat denied reports that there might be a rift in his own ranks, with a rightist group prepared to accept what the PLO currently rejects. He described these reports as media campaigns aimed at damaging the PLO's prestige, and said they are part of the ongoing propaganda onslaught that claims that the PLO has resources of $6 billion. 'Arafat added: How could the PLO acquire so much money? He said that the PLO's budget and financial resources are known. Its funds come from Arab financial aid and contributions by the Palestinian people.

'Arafat on Talks, U.S. Positions

JN191748 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1645 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has said that the three formulas submitted to Jordan by the PLO include the PLO's readiness to attend any international conference on the basis of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, particularly on the right to self-determination, on the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement, and on all UN resolutions. In a statement to the press published in Cairo today, he added that talks between the PLO and Jordan have not reached a deadlock, but have stopped for further consultations.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also said that neither Washington nor Tel Aviv are interested in achieving a just and lasting peaceful solution or in convening an international conference in order to find a solution to the Middle East problem. The leader of the revolution also affirmed that the U.S. position is arrogant and is biased toward the Zionist viewpoint, adding that the United States used its veto three times in a month not only against the Palestinian people or the PLO, but also against the Arab nation. He said that this confirms the complete U.S. bias toward the Zionist viewpoint.

Cabinet Discusses Mideast, Domestic Affairs

NC191934 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] The Cabinet met today, under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi. It discussed developments in the Palestinian issue and the efforts being exerted by Egypt to bring the views of all parties concerned closer together. These efforts are directed at safeguarding the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people on the basis of the possible formulas that could be used in this respect.

The Cabinet emphasized that the recent U.S. statement, which, for the first time, noted the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, represents a positive step in the search for a comprehensive, durable, and just peace in the Middle East. This came in a statement by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. Minister al-Sharif added that the Cabinet also discussed developments in the Iran-Iraq war and its effects on the Gulf area. Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, submitted a report on this issue; the Cabinet also considered the matter in light of the recent visit to Iraq by Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture.

Al-Sharif added that the Cabinet reviewed a memorandum on the Egyptian-Israeli talks on the Tabah issue and on other issues outstanding between the two countries. Various domestic matters were also discussed. Prime Minister Lutfi stressed that there will be no increase in the price of any commodity produced by the public sector except with the approval of the higher policy committee. Instructions were given by Prime Minister Lutfi to review the prices of some of these commodities and examine the reasons for any increase. A report on this subject will be submitted to the policy committee when it next meets to decide on the necessary measures in this regard.

The information minister added that the Cabinet also reviewed a report submitted by Interior Minister Ahmad Rushdi on the political-economic, and social aspects of domestic security. The report noted the stability prevailing in the country as a result of government policy. It is the government's aim to serve the interests of those on limited incomes, despite current economic circumstances. Minister Rushdi also described the results of the ongoing efforts to combat narcotics and harmful drugs. In light of this report, the Cabinet stressed that corruption will be severely dealt with, and that efforts to combat all forms of corruption will continue, regardless of the reasons for such corruption.

Minister al-Sharif pointed out that the Cabinet had decided to allocate 50 million pounds for the urgently needed drainage project in Alexandria. In addition, 64 million pounds will be earmarked for Egyptian-made railroad passenger cars. The Cabinet also approved the establishment of the fourth unit in the Shubra al-Khaymah power station, which will cost 198 million pounds. A project for building a new city in Al-Miniyah governorate was also approved during the Cabinet meeting. The new city will be classed as a new urban community. Arrangements for financing the construction of the new Qasr al'Ayni hospital in the amount of 600 million French francs were also approved by the Cabinet. The hospital will have 1,034 beds. A plan to provide irrigation to enable 1,200,000 feddans of rice to be cultivated was also approved. The Cabinet reviewed the results of the minister of supply's recent visit to Australia, during which an agreement was signed for the supply of 2 million tons of wheat at below market prices.

Denmark's Queen Margrethe Arrives for 4-Day Visit

NC191518 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA) — Queen Margrethe II of Denmark and her husband Prince Henrik arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a 4-day official visit to Egypt, in response to an invitation from President Husni Mubarak.

Mubarak Hosts Dinner

NC200501 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak hosted a dinner banquet at Al-Qubbah presidential palace this evening, in honor of Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, Prince Henrik, and the delegation accompanying them.

In his dinner speech, President Mubarak welcomed the honored guest and praised the strong ties that have linked Egypt and Denmark for many years. President Mubarak said he was pleased to note that 50 years have passed since diplomatic relations were established between Egypt and Denmark, and he pointed out that the 50th anniversary will be celebrated next year. He added that bilateral cooperation in the technical, economic, and cultural fields is very satisfactory, and went on to say: We both look forward to further cooperation. The president continued: We appreciate what you have done to support Egypt's efforts, both through your foreign policy and through your active role in the EEC. The president affirmed that peace is undoubtedly man's first priority, and that the dangers of wars, unrest, and turmoil affect us all without exception.

He went on to say: Your visit to our country is a good opportunity for us to renew the bonds of our relationship. It will give a considerable impetus to bilateral realtions, and will strengthen the understanding between our two countries.

Speaking at the dinner banquet, Queen Margrethe of Denmark praised the excellent relations between Egypt and Denmark. Her Majesty said: Both our countries give priority to the international efforts aimed at bolstering peace and cooperation. We are convinced that it is a matter of urgency and of the greatest importance that the United Nations and other organizations strengthen the means of international cooperation. She added that Egypt and Denmark both believe in the pressing need for tolerance and reason to prevail, and that they both have the highest esteem for the role of the patient negotiator and the peacemaker with a clear-cut vision.

Queen Margrethe said that the important and brave role being played by Egypt and His Excellency President Mubarak in the peace process is much admired in Denmark. She declared that a peaceful and just solution to the Middle East issue could be attained if all the parties concerned were to proceed in the same spirit as Egypt. She added that Europe, with its record of conflicts that have been overcome, and its experience in the field of cooperation, fully supports the Egyptian efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East. Despite the various obstacles remaining, we believe that the Arab nation's approach must be inspired by the responsible attitude adopted by Egypt, she said.

In conclusion, Queen Margrethe expressed her thanks for the warm reception given her by the Egyptian Government and people.

President Husni Mubarak awarded the Nile medal to Queen Margrethe, and the sash of the Nile to Prince Henrik. In return, Queen Margrethe awarded the (Alfil) medal to President Mubarak, and the Dannebrog medal to Mrs Mubarak.

Mubarak, Queen Hold Talks

NC200941 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0900 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Queen Margrethe II of Denmark began official talks this morning at the Al-Qubbah Presidential Palace. The foreign ministers of both countries later joined the meeting. Other Egyptian officials had similar discussions with members of the Danish delegation.

Ghali Discusses Aims of African Policy

PM191107 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic
15-21 Feb 86 pp 21-24

["Interview with Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali by Fu'ad Matar, Hamidah Na'na', and Ihsan Bakr in Cairo — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Your special interest in Africa is well known. But, in recent years, this interest has turned into your main preoccupation, considering that the black continent's concerns and its relations with Egypt have been taking up most of your time. We know that Egypt has constantly represented a center of attraction for the continent's other countries and peoples. We are also aware that the African circle was the third circle on which foreign policy focused in the days of the late President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir. This Egyptian interest in the continent had its positive influence on the Arab-Israeli conflict when all the African countries decided to sever diplomatic relations with Israel. But the present situation is different and here we are again facing Israel in the continent. Can you explain to *AL-TADAMUN*'s readers the dimensions of the current African policy of the Arab Republic of Egypt?

[Ghali] This is true. Egypt's interest in the African continent is not new. It is, rather, one of the focal points of our foreign policy. But I have general observations on African-Arab relations that must be noted to explain the situation generally and to understand the dimensions of the crisis governing these relations at present. These observations are:

First, the organizations founded in Cairo, in 1977, for cooperation between the Arab League and the OAU have failed abysmally.

Second, there are a number of Arab disagreements and disputes that have been reflected in the OAU and imposed themselves in the arena, overwhelming the other countries' problems. For years, the OAU's interest has focused on the Western Sahara issue. The split developing within the OAU's framework between those supporting and those opposing admission of the Saharan Republic as a member has preoccupied the other members for a long time. The same goes for Libya and Chad, for the Somali-Ethiopian dispute, for the disagreement on whether the OAU headquarters should be in Addis Ababa or in Tripoli, and for convening the annual conference in this or that Arab African capital. As a result, the non-Arab African countries feel extremely dissatisfied with this situation. There is a prevalent tone in the circles of African conferences saying: The Arab disagreements have imposed themselves on us and this has resulted in lack of interest in the real African problems. Numerous calls have risen calling for fragmenting the OAU, such as the call for setting up a "black African unity" organization, an organization of the "progressive African states" and so forth.

Third, the economic conditions in Africa in recent years have been very bad — starvation, drought, a debt amounting to $170 billion — and the rich Arab countries have shown no real interest in this situation.

Added to these three main causes are a number of subsidiary causes that have had their negative impact on African-Arab relations, most significantly the Iraq-Iran war, considering that since the outbreak of this war, and up until the present, Iranian delegations have been touring the continent to persuade the Africans to take a position against Iraq. As soon as the Iranian delegations depart from this or that country, Iraqi delegations arrive for the same reasons. The Africans have thus found themselves fully perplexed as to the position that should be adopted.

The African response to all the above observations has been to give thought to new approaches to relations with the Arab countries. One of these approaches has been the restoration of relations with Israel about which you have spoken. Restoring these relations represents to the African countries aid from the Western countries — aid, expertise, technology, and more from the United States.

[Question] What is the cure for this crisis of confidence?

[Ghali] More aid and more African-Arab projects. Egypt has, despite its meager economic resources, tried to implement a number of such projects. We have set up here in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the African Cooperation and Development Fund. Its objective is not to set up economic projects because we do not have the financial resources and because our economic conditions are not as healthy as one would wish. The objective has been to send expertise to the countries that need it. So far, we have sent thousands of experts and have opened the doors of the Egyptian institutes and training centers to African experts wishing to gain new capabilities. When we realized that Egypt's resources are incapable of performing the task of fruitful cooperation with Africa, we resorted to a new approach, namely the approach of trilateral cooperation, to make up for the lack of Arab aid. The trilateral cooperation approach means having technologically advanced countries with material resources, such as France, Germany, and others, participate with us. So far, I have succeeded in establishing this trilateral cooperation with Japan only.

Last year, I visited Tokyo, met with the prime minister and presented the idea to him. He displayed great enthusiasm for it. We have carried out three successful joint ventures so far. The first was to send drugs to Somalia and Sudan, with Egypt responsible for the shipping costs and Japan responsible for the costs of the drugs. The second was to train African nurses in Egyptian hospitals. The Japanese paid the travel fares and we paid the costs of residence and training. The third venture was joint naval training between Japan and a number of African countries in Alexandria for a period of 4 weeks. We are trying to overcome the meagerness of our financial resources through this approach. But these modest ventures are not the only sphere of our action in Africa. There is diplomacy. I personally make 10 trips to Africa annually to make contacts and offer aid.

[Question] Can you give us an idea of some of the objectives of these contacts and have you actually succeeded in finding solutions to some African problems?

[Ghali] All of the African continent's problems concern us by virtue of our being an indivisible part of Africa. Consequently, we are more concerned with the problems that are closer to us and that touch on our security. Let me give you an example of the contacts we make. Last month, a conference on Chad was held in Geneva. This conference required extensive contacts on our part with the Western countries. In any meeting with the officials of these countries, we stress the importance of assisting Chad materially to enable it to repair its situation. On our part, we have sent engineers, experts, and resources to Chad.

[Question] So where are the organizations set up by the Arab League in 1977 for African-Arab cooperation?

[Ghali] We wish that these organizations would act and wish that the Arab countries would advance aid to Africa instead of having Africa look far for this aid in Europe and Japan.

[Question] Can you outline to us the reasons for your interest in Africa and in following up on its problems and issues? Are there specific reasons, is there a certain secret, is the interest in Africa meant to make up for the relationship with the Arab world?

[Ghali] There is no contradiction between the interest in Africa and the interest in Egyptian-Arab relations because 70 percent of Arab territories are in Africa and 75 percent of the Arab world's population lives in Africa. This is the first reason. The second reason is that the security dimension of Egypt and Sudan, the two countries that are fatefully tied to each other, extends into Africa, meaning that the Nile, which gives life to both these countries, comes from Africa. Egypt's water is in Ethiopia, Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Zaire. These countries that I have mentioned are African countries located in the heart of the continent and controlling Egyptian national security requirements directly or indirectly. This is an axiomatic and important reason. There are, of course, other reasons connected with economic integration or with the possibilities of such integration. In 7 years, Egypt will, for example, need more water. The additional quantities of water needed require the construction of projects and dams in this or that African country. What country will give us such an advantage if our relations with it are poor or will give it for nothing in return? Therefore, I must prepare as of this moment and must advance this or that degree of aid. Moreover, Egypt truly seeks to establish economic integration with these countries. Instead of importing tea from an Asian country, I can buy it from Africa. Instead of importing meats, vegetables, drugs, and so forth [from others] I can purchase them from Africa.

[Question] But the Egyptian-Sudanese integration experience does not encourage embarking on African integration.

[Ghali] The fact that the experiment has failed does not mean that the objective is wrong. I must persist and must think of new ways to make any new integration experience successful.

[Question] We feel that turning to Africa or looking for a solution to economic problems through African integration reflects, despite the importance of this integration, some sort of attempt to make up for relations with the Arab world. It is, if you wish, tantamount to making up for the estrangement.

[Ghali] This is untrue. When Egyptian-Arab relations were at the peak of their prosperity, Egyptian-African relations were going through a phase of serious and fruitful coordination. Egypt's interest in Africa dates back to the days of Muhammad 'Ali and this interest has continued with all his successors. Prior to the foundation of the Arab League, Egypt's most important objective was, for example, the unity of the Nile. Since the foundation of the Arab League, Africa has continued to occupy a prominent place in Egyptian policy. Before establishment of the OAU, we embarked on various experiments to create African groups.

[Question] Before posing this question, we wish to point out that Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir gave Egyptian-African relations a new dimension they had not known before, even though these relations date back to Muhammad 'Ali's days, as you have noted. Our question concerns African-Israeli relations. What is Egypt's role and can Egypt block these relations through its good relations with the African countries?

[Ghali] Egypt cannot ask the African countries not to restore their relations with Israel when Egypt itself has diplomatic relations with this state. There is no doubt that Egypt's role in this regard is a pure illusion. We cannot ask for this. On the other hand, there are OAU resolutions to the effect that the OAU members should not restore their relations with Israel unless a solution is reached on the Palestinian issue. But the economic crisis storming Africa on the one hand and the faultiness of Arab policies on the other hand do not make it easy to implement these resolutions. Despite this, some African countries did not restore their relations with Israel until 2 or 3 years after Israel had withdrawn its armies from the Sinai.

We concluded the treaty in 1979, Israel withdrew in 1982, and the African countries began to restore relations in 1984 and 1985. What I want to say is that Egypt's treaty with Israel is not the only motive encouraging the African countries to restore relations with Israel. There are numerous other motives that I mentioned at the outset of this interview, such as the failure of the organizations set up by the Arab League to work in Africa, the failure of the Arab's African policy generally, and the economic crisis. I wish to ask you in turn: Is there one Arab official among the officials you meet who understands the dimensions of African-Arab relations?

[Question] We will answer you, Dr Ghali, with a question: In your capacity as an expert on African affairs, can you point out to us the element missing in this understanding?

[Ghali] There are various reasons. I do not wish to say that most of the Gulf states and some other Arab states gained independence after the African states had gained their independence. But even insofar as the Arab countries that gained their independence early are concerned, they have not thought of extending the framework of their diplomatic relations far. For example, Central and South America are almost totally neglected by the Arabs. We have paid eight visits to that continent and I have noticed that the Arab diplomatic presence is almost small. The Arab states are not interested in the other countries' problems. This lack of interest is not confined to Africa. The inter-Arab disputes and the division the area is experiencing are an important factor in confining the Arab states' interest to the area, even confining it to the limits of each separate state. Let us look around us to see what we find — confrontation between Algeria and Morocco, confrontation between Libya and Chad, confrontation between Syria and Iraq, confrontation between Iraq and Iran, and war in Lebanon. Thanks be to God, the relationship between the two Yemens has now improved, or else we would be talking of a confrontation between North Yemen and South Yemen. This being the situation, the Arab world cannot be concerned with other countries or other issues as long as it is preoccupied with solving its regional problems.

When something big happens, it becomes the duty of the other countries to be concerned with the Arab world's problems, with the Palestinian issue, with the Iraq-Iran conflict, with the Chad war and with the other issues and problems that concern us! When we need the African and Latin American countries to vote on our side in the United Nations, we contact them. But, if this need is absent, then we know nothing about their problems.

[Question] What is the story of Egypt's entry into the organization of French-speaking countries, and why? What are your objectives behind this step? Permit us to again remind you of what we have said regarding the emphasis on African-Egyptian integration. Is entry into such organizations an act to make up for the Arab estrangement?

[Ghali] Why do you not ask Morocco why it is present in the organization of French-speaking countries? Is Morocco not a full member of this organization whereas Egypt is not? The answer to your questions is that Egypt is interested in the African continent, as we have already pointed out. Egypt is also interested in taking part in conferences or meetings concerning the African continent, regardless of whether such meetings are at the level of the continent solely, at the European level, or at the UN level. On the other hand, I want to avoid an argument on the African action with the countries that have a presence in Africa, such as France. We cannot be opposed to France in Africa because we do not possess the resources or the capabilities. Moreover, such opposition is not needed. So, what is the means that enables me to be constantly present in Africa and in African issues? The organization of French-speaking countries is one of the means.

[Question] This is insofar as Africa is concerned. But what is the consideration governing your relations with Latin America? Are you trying to expand the sphere of movement and contacts to find more allies within the nonaligned bloc, for example? Do you continue to be interested in the Nonaligned Movement?

[Ghali] There are three main reasons for our interest in Latin America:

The first is one I have already mentioned in connection with our relations with Africa, namely to establish constant and lasting relations to resort to and employ when the need arises, not vice versa. This means that I should not race to these countries to ask for their support when I have a problem and then forget them.

The second reason is that Latin America belongs to the Third World. Relations with Latin America, given the current world division, are tantamount to some sort of bolstering of South-South relations, exactly as is the case in our relations with Africa and Asia. If I can achieve the minimum degree of consultation with the southern countries, then this would mean bolstering the southern front versus the north. The effectiveness of this policy has been well demonstrated by the OPEC, even though the OPEC is now experiencing a crisis.

The third reason is that Latin America is living under economic conditions similar to ours. Its debts to the major industrial countries amount to nearly $350 billion and we also suffer from the debt problem. Does this problem, for example, not merit some sort of consultation and coordination of policies?

In addition to all these reasons, there are purely Egyptian reasons embodied in the economic relations with some of these countries, such as the relations with Brazil, whose objective is industrial cooperation. I will not conceal that there is currently Egyptian-Brazilian cooperation in aircraft manufacturing.

[Question] Let us move to the issue of Sudan. We have noticed that there is a degree of vagueness in Sudanese-Egyptian relations, let us rather say there is extreme tepidity in relations. Is it reasonable, for example, that Egypt's relations with Ethiopia should be better than its relations with Sudan? This is the reality and yet you have stressed in your words the importance of African relations generally and Egyptian-Sudanese relations in particular.

[Ghali] No, this is not true. Egypt's relationship with Ethiopia is not metter than its relationship with Sudan. I know Sudan well and my experience with it dates back to 1944, when I went there when still a university student. There is a strong Egyptian presence in Sudan and a strong Sudanese presence in Egypt. We have one million Sudanese here in Egypt.

[Question] This is insofar as the Sudanese presence in Egypt in concerned. But what about the Egyptian presence in Sudan? It is much smaller...

[Ghali] How? All the high schools have Egyptian teachers. There are Egyptian professors at Khartoum University. These are institutions that have their importance in the people's daily life and carry weight in relations between two countries. It is true that the various integration experiments we have tried since 1922 have not succeeded for objective reasons of which you are well aware. I do not wish to express disdain or minimize the current difficulties. However, I do not wish to turn the difficulties into a barrier that prevents me from doing anything. If Egypt and Sudan have the political will, then these difficulties can be surmounted.

[Question] Who is responsible for the failure of the Egyptian-Sudanese integration experiments? Determining the responsibility helps greatly in avoiding future mistakes.

[Ghali] There are numerous objective reasons. The relationship between one backward country and another is much more difficult than the relationship between an advanced country and a backward country. Relations between Egypt and France are much easier, technically, than relations between Egypt and Sudan. Practically, there is a delay in studying numerous dossiers, a message is sent and an answer is not received until 2 years later; papers are lost; a project is not implemented due to the lack of reports; problems that seem theoretically small become very big and real in practice. These problems characterize not only Egypt's relations with Sudan but also govern the relations of most of the African countries with each other. It may be always proper to raise the question you have asked, namely: Who is responsible for the backward relations between this state and that one? Why has no integration experiment succeeded between such an African state and its neighbor despite dozens of attempts? Mali and Senegal had joint ports, airports, railroads, and currency. So why has there not been integration or unity? The failure of integration between Egypt and Sudan is due to objective reasons emanating from the circumstances of each country. By this I do not wish to minimize the complexes that Egyptians have toward the Sudanese or that the Sudanese have toward Egyptians. These are problems but they are much smaller than the problems that existed between France and Germany.

[Question] There is, perhaps, negligence on Egypt's part. Let us cite examples. When you take the plane from Cairo to Khartoum, you can hardly find an empty seat whereas most Egyptian planes return from Khartoum empty. If we were to conduct a survey among the Egyptian people to determine how many Egyptians know Sudan, we would find that the number is very small and that it cannot, in any case, be compared with the number of Sudanese who know Egypt. Knowledge cannot, and should not, develop unilaterally because it thus becomes the basis for an unbalanced relationship.

[Ghali] I do not agree much with what you have said on Sudanese-Egyptian relations. Communication between Egypt and Sudan has never been interrupted. Since the days of Pharoh Mina up to the present, there has been a sort of relationship between the Sudanese and Nubian Egyptian cities. These relations have diminished since construction of the high dam, which has turned Lake Nasir into a natural barrier between the north and the south. But, in the areas where there are no natural barriers Aswan-Wadi Halfa, the trade and human contacts continue to exist. You perhaps want to say that there is no contact between the Cairenes and Sudan. This may be true. But, from Asyut to Sudan, the contact continues and there is social mingling and intermarriage between Sudanese and Egyptians.

[Question] But there is no real cultural exchange. We have not heard of Egyptians going to spend a vacation in Sudan or to conduct research there. We have not heard of writers who choose to go to Sudan to write books. Is all this a mere coincidence?

[Ghali] Our intellectuals are employees and an employee is not free. The free intellectual known in Europe does not exist here. The capable Egyptian intellectual does not go to Sudan unless on an official state mission for a university, for the Ministry of Health, for the Ministry of Social Affairs, or for some other ministry. But the Egyptian intellectual perhaps travels daily to Sudan by way of the broadcasting station, the press, conferences and the media.

[Question] Before we bid you farewell, we have two questions. The first concerns the Western Sahara and the second concerns the Camp David accords. Before we get to the accords and conclude our interview with it, we wish to ask you about Egyptian policy vis-a-vis the Sahara problem. It has been noticed recently that there is an Algerian-Egyptian rapproachement. It has also been noticed that Egypt has, for the first time, invited a Polisario Front delegation to take part in the conference of the African ministers of information. Can we consider this a prelude to a likely recognition of the Sahara Republic?

[Ghali] Egypt's position on the Western Sahara problem is a clear position that has not changed. It is a position of neutrality toward the dispute between Algeria and Morocco. As for the Sahara Republic, we have not recognized it and it is our preference that a referendum be held among the Saharan people to learn their opinion. A referendum is the only objective base through which the Sahara problem can be solved. As for inviting a Polisario delegation to the conference of the African ministers of information in Cairo, this does not mean a change in our policy. Moreover, we are not the ones who have issued the invitation but rather the OAU, which is entitled to invite whomever it wishes.

[Question] Dr Ghali, the feeling we have formed as a result of talking to and debating those we have met in Egypt is that Egupt has discovered the burden of the Camp David accords and, consequently, its negative impact on the country. Is there a possibility of reconsidering these accords;

[Ghali] No, no, never.

[Question] Are there apprehensions?

[Ghali] It is not an issue of apprehensions. We are bound to an international treaty and we continue to adhere to it.

[Question] Egypt was bound by a treaty to Britain. However, Egypt abrogated the treaty when the need arose. The Camp David treaty, concluded for the purpose of peace and prosperity, has not achieved its objectives. On the contrary, it has complicated Egypt's circumstances...

[Ghali] We are bound to a treaty and there are international charters. I cannot predict relations in 10 or 15 years. We are a developing country, I can say what will happen in months, but not in years. In the foreseeable future, we have no plans to reconsider the Camp David accords. We are a country that respects its treaties.

Saudi Amir Discusses Ties With Egypt, Arab Issues

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[Interview with Amir Turki ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, brother of Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, by Makram Muhammad Ahmad in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Introductory passage omitted] Question: Your highness, I understand that you are visiting Egypt for the first time in 15 years. May I ask you what the reasons are for this long absence and, if I may, the reasons for your visit?

Answer: Yes, my last visit to Egypt was 15 years ago, in late 1969 to be specific, when I made a brief visit lasting only 48 hours. I was then representing the Saudi Arabian Kingdom at the conference of Arab defense and foreign ministers that was held at the Arab League to discuss Israel's threats to southern Lebanon.

Egypt always feels like a second home, so I do not feel like a stranger or alien. One of the reasons for my current visit is to see the important changes that have occurred in Egypt, because what happens in Egypt, by necessity, affects the rest of the nation. As the proverb says: Seeing is believing.

Question: What did your highness hear and see?

Answer: The truth is that I have heard and read a lot about Egypt and I felt concerned by some of what I heard and read. It appears that there are people, particularly in the Western press, who are eager to paint a very different picture from what is actually happening here. There is a desire, which can easily be perceived, to portray the situation in Egypt as lacking stability and security. In fact, I have busied myself with verifying these things. I have sat with and listened to many people and groups of different views and leanings. I have looked closely at the situation in Egypt in general and I believe that Egypt now is enjoying more stability and security than at any time in its recent history. Indeed, it is difficult to find anything like it in many other parts of the Arab world.

Question: Therefore, your visit, your highness, is private but also is not entirely without any other motive.

Answer: Yes, it is so. The day before yesterday President Mubarak received me for more than 1 hour. Together we discussed our Arab nation's affairs and the question of Egyptian-Saudi relations. Then I had a telephone conversation with King Fahd, who asked me to convey his sincere friendship and greetings to President Mubarak.

Question: Therefore, the king is aware of the mission and the visit and he blesses it.

Answer: The king is aware of the mission and the visit and he does bless it. I also told him about my earlier meeting when I met with a number of chief editors and those concerned with Egypt's Arab policy. The king begged me to ask you to look after Saudi-Egyptian relations, which need the support of those who sincerely care about the nation's interests. He also asked me to convey to the chief editors an invitation to visit the Kingdom, whether individually or in groups, so that they can ascertain the sincerity of the Kingdom's sentiments toward egypt and the Egyptians.

Question: Your Highness, I hope I am not overstepping the bounds if I move this dialogue from an exchange of politenesses to frank discussion. I am astonished, your highness, that King Fahd should ask us to look after Egyptian-Saudi relations as if the matter were up to us. We certainly support, respect, and respond to the king's wishes. But what can be done if, as some of us believe, the Kingdom, for several reasons, is still not enthusiastic about the question of Egyptian-Saudi relations?

Your highness, it often appears to us that making Egypt's return to the Arab world dependent on a unanimous Arab decision is merely an excuse and a pretext. It also appears to us that, although for many reasons that we understand, Saudi Arabia cannot take the initiative to improve the situation; it has also shown no enthusiasm for others to take such an initiative.

It is painful, your highness, that envoys should be coming and going and should be whispering in ears saying: We want and we wish but Saudi Arabia prefers to wait.

These are personal impressions of what we hear behind the scenes. I do not wish to blame official Egypt for any effects of this situation because official Egypt always says: What matters is that the Arabs should meet, even if without Egypt, because the alternative is continued disunity and rifts.

Answer: Let me tell you frankly that discussion is the shortest way to reaching the truth and achieving agreement. First, I would like to express here certain sincere beliefs that I express everywhere, in family meetings, in my meetings with Saudi officials, and in our meetings with everybody:

First, there is nobody in Saudi Arabia who is not anxious for a rapid restoration of Arab solidarity; and Arab solidarity without Egypt is meaningless and insignificant.

I know that some people say: We hope and we wish but Saudi Arabia prefers to wait...

I do not wish here to use big and bombastic words, such as I challenge or anything similar, but I would like to stress that our attitude is exactly the opposite. We have been anxious for an initiative to be taken by Baghdad, for example, particularly since Cairo, as a matter of principle, supports Iraq's steadfastness [in the Iraq-Iran war] with all it can. We have also hoped that an initiative would be taken by other parties that appeared to be in a position to be able to do so. I do not think that anybody has the right to use the Kingdom as an excuse for failing his responsibility.

The Kingdom's stand at the Islamic summit in Casablanca was clear. Maybe King Fahd did not project himself as some others did, but he more than anybody else at the meeting defended Egypt's return to the ICO. Why then should our stand be different from that?

Question: Allow me, your highness, to be even more frank than that. Stories are being circulated about a rift within the [Saudi royal] family. There are those — and you are probably among them — who want Egypt to return to its Arab world because this would contribute to achieving relative stability in the Arab situation. Yet, there is another group that believes that the situation should remain as it is.

Answer: These are groundless exaggerations because Saudi-Egyptian relations are governed by a number of fixed principles that do not change according to personal whims.

Saudi-Egyptian relations are a strategic necessity for the security of both countries and a national necessity for maintaining an equilibrium in our Arab world. This fact was voiced some 50 years ago by King 'Abd al-'Aziz, God's mercy be upon him. I believe that his words are still a vital part of Saudi policy.

I must tell you that nobody in Saudi Arabia, or anywhere in the whole Arab world, can sincerely deny the tremendous sacrifices Egypt has offered for the cause of its nation's national issues, beginning with the 1984 war and through the 1956, 1967, and 1973 wars. Only the ungrateful ones would deny these great and tremendous sacrifices. And nobody can ignore Egypt or deny its role.

I must tell you that, as one of the people closest to King Fahd, I have never heard from him anything about Egypt but appreciation and praise. But, unfortunately, there are those who are happy to see a gap in relations between the two countries. We should not enable these people to achieve their objectives. I am sure that King Fahd will not enable them to do so, and the same should be done by all those who are in favor of close ties between Egypt and the Kingdom. It was probably on the basis of this principle alone that King Fahd has asked me to ask Egyptian writers and the media to care for Egyptian-Saudi relations.

Question: Your highness, if these are the Kingdom's intentions, I wonder how you view the state of relations now?

Answer: The solution lies in direct personal meetings on the summit level. There is no alternative to a meeting between Fahd and Mubarak. This is what we should work for at the earliest possible date because the situation cannot tolerate any further delay.

Question: Your highness, what is preventing this meeting from taking place?

Answer: I think that nothing now stands in the way of such meeting, particularly in view of the sincerity of intentions of both men. I believe that it is the duty of all of us to make efforts to bring about this meeting without intermediaries and at the earliest possible date.

I believe that one of the scourges of the Arab world at certain times has been the strange thing called personal representatives of kings and presidents. These have done more harm than good. More often than not they were intermediaries of evil than of good. They believed that it was in their interest that the gap should remain and widen, because the continuation of the gap would prolong their role.

Question: Do you believe, your highness, that the present Arab situation is ripe for accepting such a step?

Answer: If Reagan and Gorbachev were able to put aside their acute ideological differences, and if each of them was able to shed the burdens of his own allies in order to sit together for a face-to-face dialogue whose primary aim was to serve joint U.S.-Soviet interests — if this could happen to the two leaders of the conflict in our contemporary world, why cannot this happen in our Arab world? I believe that our common interests and the great common dangers facing us make it necessary for Arab leaders to quickly hold a meeting in order to settle their differences.

I wonder, if the Arab leaders do not sit down now, at a summit or in bilateral meetings, in order to resolve their differences, when will they do so? I wonder what summit meetings are for if not for resolving differences that might arise between our leaders in the first place.

I say, frankly and clearly, that the Arab people can wait no longer than they have. If the Arab leaders do not sincerely work together in order to overcome the present rifts the consequence will be further chaos and disunity, something that the enemies of our

Arab nation would like to see happening. Speaking more frankly, I would say that time will have no mercy and will not wait.

I wonder how long we can look at one another and others can look at us at this presentl lowly and unbecoming level. There are pro-U.S. Arabs and pro-Soviet Arabs. When will we look on ourselves as Arabs who place Arab interests above all other considerations?

I wonder what the feeling of every Arab was as he followed the news of the fierce fighting between the two wings of power in Aden, the wings that could find no place to discuss their differences other than the Soviet Embassy in Aden? I am not objecting to the Soviet Embassy as a location, but I wonder was there not an Arab embassy suitable for this purpose?

Briefly, further slackness means further disruption and chaos.

Question: Nevertheless, your highness, some people can still find justifications to exclude Egypt and to hinder potential real Arab solidarity, sometimes under the pretext that this would be a violation of the Arab League Charter and another time allegedly because of Camp David agreements.

Answer: I would like to tell these people that no sincere Arab party can ignore Egypt's importance or exclude its role. We would be doing an injustice to ourselves if we consider the present regime in Egypt responsible for the actions of a regime that has gone and is finished. President Mubarak has brought a new trend calling for solidarity and shunning altercations. He is showing readiness to adopt a unified Arab stand that would guarantee Palestinian rights. Why therefore should we miss this opportunity?

Those who claim that Egypt has violated the Arab League Charter should ask themselves about the others who violated the Charter, sometimes by declaring war that could have been avoided and other times by entering into alliances that are harmful to the interest of the cause. Why did the Arab League use double standards? Why was its attitude toward such people unclear? Finally, the whole issue becomes irrelevant if the PLO, its entire leadership, sees the need for restoring its relations with Egypt because it is stronger with Egypt than without it.

What excuses are left to justify the Arab boycott of Egypt if 'Arafat and his comrades never stopped visiting Cairo? Also, is it not high time that we should realize that the concept of a boycott has become something of the past?

Question: Your highness, I hope you will forgive me my frankness if I raise another issue. Some people here wonder: What justifications does Saudi Arabia have to give covert help to some of the religious extremist groups in Egypt? If these groups aim at destabilizing Egypt, what security could Saudi Arabia have if Egypt's security crumbles under the fanaticism of those groups?

Answer: I have the right to say here that I challenge any witness or evidence that could corroborate these reckless allegations. It is absolutely not true that Saudi Arabia covertly or overtly helps any of these groups because we reject extremism and are aware of its danger. We also shun interference in the internal affairs of any country, let alone Egypt, the biggest Arab state.

Question: Your highness, if it is not the Saudi Government that gives such aid, maybe there are certain private institutions or Saudi personalities that, for some unclear reasons, help and encourage these trends.

Answer: I am sorry to say that, in this case, the Egyptian Government would be failing its duty if it does not strike with an iron fist at those who tamper with its security and stability regardless of who those people are. Furthermore, what sort of religious extremism would we seek to encourage? In actual fact, we are looking forward to religious moderation in Egypt.

Do you realize that we feel more at ease and reassured when the pilgrimage season brings a large number of Egyptian pilgrims. This is because with their deep belief, moderate behavior, and piety they set a good example for every Muslim pilgrim — to respect the pilgrimage rites and ignore the actions of certain pilgrimage groups that come for incitement and instigation.

Question: Your highness, is Saudi Arabia considering dispensing with the services of Egyptian workers in favor of workers imported from Asia and, if that is the case, what are the reasons?

Answer: I think that there is no Saudi who does not highly appreciate the wonderful efforts that our Egyptian brothers have made in order to help us implement the development projects in our country. Saudi Arabia has been importing workers from all parts of the world, both from the East and the West, from Asia and Africa. But none were equal to the Egyptian worker in his loyalty, perseverance, and efficiency, whether he is a university professor, doctor, engineer, teacher, or construction worker. Saudi Arabia will always remain grateful for the efforts made by the Egyptian brothers in all fields, not only in recent times but also in the distant past.

If some companies recently turned towards employing Asian workers, I believe that the reason for that is because the Egyptian market has been unable to provide all the categories and all the demands. Perhaps you yourself have been suffering from a shortage of certain skilled workers.

Question: Your highness, we have devoted much time to discussing Egyptian-Saudi relations. May I ask how you view the present situation in the Arab world?

Answer: The situation does not augur well. If things continue as they are, we will only reap total chaos that will destroy everything. The Arab leaders must do something in order to halt this fragmentation and disunity.

We must act jointly in accordance with the dictates of the higher national interests and abandon this terrible division — pro-Soviet Arabs and pro-U.S. Arabs. The only salvation for these people is Arab solidarity based on good intentions and awareness of the dangers menacing us as well as realizing the Arab nation's interests.

We must ask ourselves how long we can continue to ask for assistance from others in order to resolve our disputes, which no one can resolve except ourselves. We must ask ourselves how long we can go on depending on abroad for our arms and food.

We must ask ourselves how long our investments can continue to go abroad, what guarantees we have for those investments there, and why we have failed to create mutual trust that would ensure keeping Arab investments in the Arab countries.

I believe that those who thought that Arab investments abroad would be more secure recently learned many hard lessons proving that they were wrong.

We must ask ourselves how we can establish Arab solidarity on the basis of mutual interests in which our roles complement rather than contradict one another, on firm economic bases that link our common desinites on a foundaiton of planning and science.

Question: Your highness, I am surprised by what you say because there was a golden opportunity to achieve this when the Arab world agreed on establishing the Military Industrialization Authority. However, the authority, which under its constitution it was agreed to keep it unaffected by any political disputes, fell apart when the first political dispute occurred. It collapsed as a result of the dispute between Egypt and the Arabs over Camp David.

Answer: You have asked me a frank question and frankness makes it incumbent on me to tell you that this is not the whole truth. The truth is that certain beneficiary groups here that allied themselves with beneficiary groups elsewhere have turned this extremely important utility, which could have played an important role in the interest of the Arab nation, into a utility serving their interests in brokerage and commission. The project was not based on a sound scientific basis. As I have already said, we have allowed pimples on the face of our political life to grow into tumors. It was these that ruined the Military Industrialization Authority.

I believe that President Husni Mubarak knows the entire story. I gave him many of the details when he was vice president. I used to complain to him about those parasites on the Arb nation under such false titles as presidential personal envoy and the like. I believe that the Arab Military Industrialization Authority failed the first test because its structure was not adequately sound.

Question: I would like, your highness, to ask you about Saudi Arabia's attitude toward the Soviet Union. Some people have gone so far as to attach political significance to the visit by the Saudi basketball team to the Soviet Union for a game there. Is this some kind of new diplomacy that could lead to normal relations with the Soviet Union?

Answer: I think that there has actually been some exaggeration in attaching political significance to the Saudi basketball team's visit to the Soviet Union. The team was received with great cordiality, for which we thank the Soviets. But the question of diplomatic relations is another matter.

I believe that there is now a reasonable volume of trade and economic ties between Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union. Also, we do not see the Soviet Union as a power to which we must be hostile. As Arabs, we have absolutely no interest in being hostile to the Soviet Union or the United States. Our interest lies in joint cooperation, ensuring equal interests free of pressure or dictates.

In other words, we have no complex toward the Soviet Union, but the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan represents a major stumbling block to the development of relations with them. I believe that the departure of the Soviets from Afghanistan would smooth the road and make it easier.

Ramadan Meets 'Arafat 19 Feb on War Situation

JN191943 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Feb (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, met with Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, here this evening. The two sides discussed the latest developments in the Iranian aggression and the new developments in the Palestinian cause.

The first deputy prime minister stressed that the military situation is strong and emphasized the determination of the Iraqi forces and Iraqi people to wipe out the aggressors, crush their aggression, and foil all their hopes of desecrating Iraqi soil.

Yasir 'Arafat reiterated the Palestinian people's support for their Iraqi brothers in their defense of Arab land.

Tariq 'Aziz Speaks to UN Security Council

JN191725 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] New York, 19 Feb (INA) — Iraq has stated that the new Iranian aggression against it seeks to occupy the northern part of the Arab Gulf and to create a new political, military, and economic state of affairs in the region serving Iranian objectives of expansion. Iraq also emphasized that through its current aggression, Iran has not only Iraq as its target but also all countries in the region.

Iraq said it rejects any approach which does not clearly lead to the end of the war and that it will not participate in it and will not be held responsible for it. Iraq also said that the UN Security Council in its discussion of the Iraqi-Iranian conflict faces a serious and anomalous situation because one of the parties to the dispute insists on violating all basic principles of international law.

This was contained in a speech Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, delivered at the outset of UN Security Council deliberations on developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war here last night. Tariq 'Aziz explained that Iran succeeded in exercising this anomalous trend in view of the United Nation's preoccupation with some aspects of this war without putting the necessary pressure on Iran to make it end the war through a comprehensive settlement. Tariq 'Aziz said that these policies have really served the Iranian regime's objectives of pursuing the war and have helped its attempts to occupy Iraq and to threaten stability and security in the Arab Gulf region.

'Aziz stressed that following the new Iranian aggression, the time has come for the UN Security Council to firmly confront the dangerous situation which poses a threat to peace and security in the region and the world as a result of the Iranian policy of continuing aggression.

Tariq 'Aziz addressed Security Council members by saying: You have to shoulder your responsibilities seriously in accordance with the UN Charter to end the war in order to establish a just, comprehensive peace guaranteeing the two sides' rights and interests. He warned the Council against the policy of eclectic and partial tackling and ambiguous formulas. He called for focusing efforts on ending the war in accordance with international laws. He affirmed Iraq's rejection of any approach differing from the UN Charter, international law, and principles which states have entrenched when settling international disputes.

'Aziz explained that false diplomatic interpretations caused rivers of blood and an enormous amount of destruction and encouraged the Iranian regime to insist on war with a haughtiness unprecedented in the history of the United Nations. He stressed: Iraq will not accept any endeavor which does not clearly and unambiguously relate to ending the war and that Iraq will not participate in or assume the responsibility for such endeavors.

He pointed out that the Iraqi people bravely defended their homeland's sovereignty and the security of soil, dignity, and honor. The Iraqi people offered great human and material sacrifices for this purpose. He emphasized that Iraq's presentation of its conflict with Iran to the UN Security Council does not stem from any weakness or inability. This is only an exercise of Iraq's rights and responsibilities as a UN member.

He called on the UN Security Council to assume its responsibilities in order to decisively place Iran before its responsibilities. He said that Iran will either have to accept UN principles and the UN Charter, which were put forward to organize relations among states and peoples in the modern age, or isolate itself from the international community. Tariq 'Aziz asserted the need for the Security Council, which is charged with safeguarding security, stability, and peace in the world, to adopt appropriate measures to tackle the situation.

Iran Accused of Using Chemical Weapons 12, 13 Feb

JN182151 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] United Nations, 18 Feb (INA) — Iraq's permanent UN representative 'Ismat Kittani delivered six letters to the Security Council members holding the Iranian regime responsible for using chemical weapons against Iraqi forces. The letters, which were distributed on the instructions of the UN secretary general, affirm that the Iranian regime fired 500 shells on residential areas in Al-Khasib in Al-Basra Governorate on 11 February, killing two civilians, wounding another civilian and a female student, and damaging property, including the main waterpipe that supplies the area with drinking water. The letters explained that, in view of the heavy losses the Iranian enemy had sustained, it used chemical weapons against Iraq on 12 and 13 February, believing that this despicable act would extricate it from the dilemma in which it had placed itself.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iran

Updated Situation at Battlefront

JN200712 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0610 GMT 20 Feb 86

[By Usamah al-Salihi]

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 20 Feb (INA) — The southern Iraqi column at the Al-Faw front continues to advance considerable distances toward Ra's al-Bishah on the coast overlooking the Arab Gulf. In the meantime, positions and liberated areas are reinforced with Iraqi fighters.

The Iraqi missile and artillery corps last night continued their intensive fire against the Iranian units which tried to send fresh troops to the battlefield under cover of darkness. Three enemy supply boats were destroyed and sunk in the Arab Gulf waters.

As for the northern and central columns, the Iranian dispatch of reinforcements to their fronts gave those two columns a chance to destroy the largest possible part of the Iranian war machine. The two columns continued to tear up the advancing Iranian forces and their weapons and equipment after destroying their attempts to launch counterattacks on the Iraqi forces. These Iraqi strikes succeeded in tightening the grip around the Iranian forces and in intensifying pressure on them from all directions.

Press reports say that the battlefield is covered with dead Iranian soldiers who were uprooted from their positions by our strong fire. This is confirmed by the Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq organization which said that the number of Iranian dead has risen to over 35,000 soldiers. These reports indicate that what is taking place on the battlefield should not be viewed only from the angle of an offensive because the Iraqi advance is coupled step by step with calculations related to the defense of the liberated territory. The Iraqi Air force is expected to carry out intensive offensive operations today as appropriate weather conditions are prevailing at the battlefront. Yesterday, the Iraqi pilots carried out 745 combat missions. Thus, the number of missions carried out during the past 10 days amounted to 4,548.

WAM: Iran Retreating From Al-Faw

GF200703 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0620 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Feb (WAM) — In an interview with an *AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I* correspondent, an Iraqi military source stated in Basra last night that Iraqi monitoring equipment had monitored Iranian wireless systems making calls to Iranian military units in Al-Faw to pull back into Iranian territory and to abandon their heavy weapons, which cannot be carried while crossing water due to the pressure of the large-scale Iraqi offensive and Iraqi intensive fire.

Navy Sinks 3 Supply Ships 19 Feb

JN192004 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1945 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The brave men of the Navy who are protecting security in the Arab Gulf and are the efficient defenders of Iraqi soil and waters continue, with the help of God, to confront any enemy attempt to reinforce its frustrated forces from the sea. Our brave gunboats dealt devastating blows to a large supply ship and another medium-sized one north of the Arab Gulf at 2050 [1750 GMT] today, blowing them up and sinking them. At 2135 [1835 GMT] today, our Navy dealt another blow to a third supply ship, immediately sinking it. Proceed with more blows, O brave men of our Navy. You are worthy of all tributes.

[Dated] 19 February 1986

Destroys Another

JN200809 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The brave Navy men continue their glorious defense of the Arab Gulf waters, cutting off with successive blows the supply routes of the defeated enemy forces. The brave Navy men managed to hit a medium-sized supply ship at 0015 today [2115 GMT 19 February]. It was blown up and sunk. Congratulations to you on your victories, O men of our Navy, the guards and defenders of the homeland.

[Dated] 20 February 1986

Sinks Rescue Gunboat

JN192138 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2128 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Navy continues to inflict successive losses on the criminal enemy. The enemy sent one of its gunboats to rescue the sailors of one of the targets which was sunk this evening. One of our gunboats intercepted it, destroying and sinking it at 2245 [1945 GMT] today. Blessed be your hands, O brave men of the Navy, and may God guide your steps on the road to victory.

[Dated] 19 February 1986

Planes Down F-4 Early 20 Feb

JN200752 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Feb (INA) — The Iraqi aircraft shot down an Iranian F-4 plane at 0950 [0650 GMT] today. A military spokesman told INA that the plane was downed when it tried to penetrate Iraq's international border at the VII Army Corps front.

Down C-130 Transport Plane

JN200926 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Feb (INA) — Iraqi fighter planes have downed a huge Iranian C-130 transport plane. A military spokesman told INA that the Iraqi pilots intercepted the Iranian plane and downed it in the Ahvaz area at 1151 [0851 GMT] today.

714 Air Force Missions 19 Feb

JN191604 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1555 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Feb (INA) — An authoritative military spokesman has stated that the Iraqi fighter planes and helicopter gunships today carried out 714 raids on Iranian forces in the VII Army Corps sector and on military facilities in Iranian military camps. In a statement to INA, the spokesman said that Iraqi fighter planes made 464 combat sorties while helicopter gunships made 250 combat sorties against Iranian forces. The spokesman added that the fighter planes and helicopters which inflicted destruction on the Iranian forces and targets safely returned to base.

Communique on 18-19 Feb Actions

JN191821 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Communique No 2,122 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 19 February 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We have repeatedly warned the ignorant and suspect Iranian rulers against the consequences of committing aggression against our land and have repeatedly tried to make them understand that they have always failed in keeping any inch of our territory, in paralyzing for one moment our people's march, or in obstructing their endeavors to achieve their noble objectives. What our valiant Armed Forces have achieved and are achieving confirms that the enemy intentions are immersed in evil.

These enemies have only two choices: either to gather their remnants and try to escape from their tribulation or to be wiped out without mercy, as no quarter can be given to the aggressors. Our land will continue to be ours. We will continue to enjoy our sovereignty and to proceed on the right path. God will succor those who deserve it.

The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. The upshot of our units' activities in the VII Army Corps front are as follows:

a. The heroic southern coastal column continued its offensive yesterday afternoon, penetrating enemy positions one after another to regain the land which the enemy is desecrating. Following a series of successive battles, the aggressors were repulsed 3 km. Thus the enemy was forced to retreat 5.5 km yesterday. The battles waged by the southern column were splendid in terms of coordination and performance. The heroism of the fighters — commanders, officiers, and other ranks — was manifested in the most excellent manner. No one other than men who are loyal to their homeland, love their people, and have taken their leader as their example could have achieved such an enthusiastic advance. During last night, our men mapped the positions which were liberated.

At 0630 [0330 GMT] today, the collapsing enemy forces carried out a series of frustrated attempts to approach our new positions. Our brave men confronted the enemy forces with all types of weapons, and with the efficient support of the artillery, the Iraqi fighter aircraft, and the helicopter gunships all enemy attempts were aborted. Our forces imposed their complete control over the situation. The enemy sustained very heavy losses in our defensive and offensive battles opposite the southern column. May God bless the men of Iraq — commanders, officers, and other ranks. You are the pride of the Arab nation and a source of the entire world's admiration.

b. With respect to the central and northern columns, our heroic forces are engaging the enemy in battle, using all types of weapons. The enemy sustained important losses opposite these two columns. The enemy was seen exerting strenuous efforts to evacuate its losses.

2. Our Air Force, which has inflicted heavy losses on the criminal enemy from which the enemy will continue to suffer, continued intensive and successive raids on enemy units, military hardware, and camps, sowing death, destruction, and terror among enemy ranks. With God's help, our Air Force carried out the following missions:

a. Since this morning, our planes have been pounding new groups of Khomeyniites with their missiles in the VII Army Corps front, thus providing adequate support for our ground forces in 466 combat missions.

b. At 0945 today, a devastating air strike was dealt to the Khaneh military camp. Our eagles destroyed the camp installations, wiped out the Khomeyniite remnants there, and set their ammunition and armaments depots on fire.

c. At 0949 today, our valiant eagles made another successful air strike against the Jaldian military camp, inflicting massive losses on enemy installations, equipment, and men and leaving enemy ammunition and armaments depots in flames.

d. At 1047 today, the brave eagles of the air crushed enemy attempts to repair the Chuyebdeh bridge and with their missiles aborted these attempts and destroyed 10 vehicles which were parked near the bridge.

e. At 1313 today, our planes carried out a new raid on the Ganaveh oil pipeline intersection, pounding their targets and setting them ablaze.

f. At 1315 today, our daring planes carried out a surprise, destructive raid on the forward Iranian naval command center on the island of Dara, from which the enemy is supervising naval activities and reinforcing its frustrated units. A number of enemy naval units are also anchored there. Our bombs pounded the center over the heads of its occupants and transformed it into burning ashes. The Air Force bombs also wreaked havoc on enemy naval units.

g. At 1435 today, while one of our planes was chasing the Khomeyniites in the (Bahbahan) area 350 km inside Iranian territory, it discovered a huge enemy communications plane of the C-130 type which performs tasks similar to those of AWACS, as it carries similar communications equipment. Our plane fired its missiles which do not miss their targets and turned it into splinters scattering in the air.

h. Several of our planes carried out a successful raid on the (?Musak) and Robat camps at 1434 and 1443 respectively this afternoon. Our planes pounded their targets in the two camps and inflicted heavy losses on enemy forces in these two camps. After carrying out all these missions, our planes safely and triumphantly returned to base, crowned with laurels of victory and glowing with pride. We ask God to reward them for what they have achieved for their people.

One of our planes fell over the battlefield and its pilot was seen bailing out safely. We hold the Iranian side responsible for the life of this pilot.

3. Heroism is manifested in all its forms in what the heroic helicopter gunship knights are offering in terms of bountiful offerings, unique courage, and heroic enthusiasm. All day today, the helicopter gunship knights flew over the battlefield, sowing death among enemy ranks and destruction on its military hardware and providing the best support for our ground forces. The knights carried out 279 combat sorties today inflicting on the Khomeyniites further losses. They safely and triumphantly returned to base, satisfied with the success God has granted them.

4. Our brave men of the Navy continue to effectively participate in the battle of honor and dignity and are daily inflicting on the retreating enemy forces heavy losses in life and equipment. Having had the privilege of shooting down one of the two planes which fell over our territory yesterday, they shot down, with God's help, another enemy fighter plane, an F-5, over the VII Army Corps front at 0950 today. Blessed be the courageous lions of the sea. Glory to our courageous Navy. Proceed forward to achieve new victories.

5. A heroic force in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris attacked the enemy, destroyed three enemy rafts, and captured another raft and two boats. In the sector east of Al-Basra, six enemy soldiers were killed and one heavy-caliber machinegun was destroyed. In the II Army Corps central sector, four enemy positions were destroyed and several enemy soldiers were either killed or wounded by one of our brave patrols. Blessed be your arms, O brave men, wherever you may be in the trenches of dignity and honor.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 February 1986

Iranian Soldiers Reportedly Hospitalized in Israel

JN191923 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1914 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Nicosia, 19 Feb (INA) — Palestinian sources in the West Bank have told the INA correspondent in Nicosia that wounded Iranian soldiers are being treated in occupied Palestine. In a telephone contact with the INA correspondent, these sources said that the Iranian soldiers arrived at the (Rambam) hospital in Haifa last Friday and that Zionist military medical teams are treating them there.

Husayn Addresses Nation on Mideast Peace

JN192044 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Feb 86

["Text" of King Husayn address to the nation; in Amman on 19 February — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Fellow citizens, Palestinian brothers everywhere, Arab brothers:

I extend my greetings to you all. It is from you, from your public awareness, from my belonging to you and from my loyalty to your aims and aspirations that I derive my ability to outline the salient features of our primary cause, as we perceive them here in Amman, only some miles from Jerusalem. I seek guidance and assistance from the Almighty.

In the past few days, Amman has been the center of attention for much of the world, drawing media people and journalists from all quarters. News coming out of Amman was reported on the front pages of world newspapers and occupied a prominent place in agency reports and news bulletins. But the content of these reports reflected mere speculation or expectations on the possible outcome of discussions held with us and with leading officials of our government by the Palestinian leadership while in Amman. Amman, along with concerned world circles, went through a period of expectation, but we preferred not to issue any declarations or communiques until matters under intensive discussion, whether between us and the Palestinian leadership or among its own members, became clearer.

Now that a measure of clarity has become apparent, I consider it my duty as well as my responsibility towards you, being in the thick of events and in the in eye of the hurricane, to appraise you of the most recent phase of political endeavor with regard to our foremost cause: Palestine, its land, its holy places, its people, and their identiy.

Dear brothers, before I turn to the details, and in light of obstacles and surprises which lay in store for us, exceeding our expectations when we first embarked on this chapter of political action, it would be well to remind ourselves that this was not the first round of political effort on our part since the war of 1967. There were several previous endeavors to this end. These were:

1. Jordan's role in formulating Security Council Resoluion 242 in November 1967.

2. Cooperation with the United Nations secretary general's special envoy Ambassador Gunnar Jarring in his attempt to implement this resolution. This effort, which was coordinated with Egypt, produced no results.

3. Participation with Egypt in accepting the Rogers Plan of 1970 and attempting to secure its implementation. This attempt failed.

4. Participation in the international peace conference in Geneva in December 1973 and in subsequent efforts in 1974 and 1975 with the then U.S. secretary of state, leading to the disengagement agreements, first between Egypt and Israel, then between Israel and Syria. On our front, however, we were unable to arrive at a similar agreement.

5. Coordination with Egypt, Syria and the PLO in 1976 and 1977 with a view to resuming the international conference, with PLO participation. The attempt failed as a result of President al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem.

6. A first attempt at coordination with the PLO, between October 1982 and April 1983, to arrive at an incipient bilateral formula which would form the basis of a larger Arab formula. This was conducted in the wake of Israel's invasion of Lebanon and the PLO exodus from Beirut. The results fell short of our expectations.

7. A second attempt at coordination with the PLO, between the summer of 1984 and February 1986, on which I shall elaborate later.

This brief summary, brothers and sisters, shows that Jordan was either a party to various attempts to reach a just, peaceful, permanent, and comprehensive settlement or an initiator of political action toward this end.

The only initiative from which Jordan excluded itself was that leading to the Camp David accords, which it refused to join for reasons known to all. It is also evident that failure at any particular stage did not deter Jordan from joining or initiating subsequent action which held the promise of seriousness or sincerity. There were two reasons for Jordan's determination and consistent policy:

First: Jordan believes in peace. As a memebr of the United Nations, it subscribes to the resolving of international conflicts through peaceful means and subcribes to peaceful coexistence among states on the basis of rights, justice, and equity as stipulated in the U.S. Charter and international law.

Second: By virtue of: its immediate historical and geographical links with Palestine and the Palestinian cause; its observation of developments in the occupied territories, particularly in Jerusalem; its informed understanding of Zionist thinking as well as of Israeli plans seeking, on the one hand, to take advantage of current Arab disarray, weakness, and paralysis and, on the other, of Israeli military superiority based on long-range planning, persistent effort, and vast, uninterrupted and stable material assistance.

Jordan recognizes the gravity of the danger inherent in the state of no war no peace first and foremost to the Palestinian people and to Jerusalem, then to Jordan's own national security and, ultimately, to the Arab nation at large.

Brothers and sisters, if we are to remain content with slogans and generalizations, the danger currently posed by continued Israeli occupation of Arab territories — as a physical manifestation of Israeli expansionism supported by military might — can only become more menacing. The danger must be examined and analyzed in order to ascertain its extent and its various components. Only in this manner could it be removed from the sphere of emotional speculation and be transformed into a tangible reality giving rise to a rational and serious will to thwart it.

For a variety of reasons, there is a need for a thorough airing of this question. The shared destiny of Jordan and Palestine requires it. So does the time factor, in view of the fact that the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights have been occupied for close to 19 years. The situation is further aggravated by prolonged failure to find a solution and by the growing threat to the Palestinians' true identity resulting from the gradual displacement of the Palestinian people. One also has to consider ramifications with regard to Jordan, the region, and the world. In the final analysis, a people without its land is nothing more than a disjointed community.

Identity without a homeland is but a reservoir of sad memories. Our aim should be the land itself. Now, as at the turn of the century, the Palestinian cause is inseparable from the Palestinian land, which today is the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. This being the case, the Palestinian people, steadfast on Palestinian territory, are our primary concern. For a different reason, they are also the primary concern of the enemy. They are the major obstacle to the advancement of expansionist Zionist programs. Their legitimate resistance poses an overt challenge to claims by Israel and its friends and supporters, be they states or communities, that Israel is a free and democratic society, and places it as an open test within the sight and hearing of the world.

Brothers and sisters, if most of us have so far failed to grasp these rudimentary facts, the enemy has not. It is on the basis of these facts that Israel's aims and policies were formulated from the very beginning: to occupy the land of Palestine and expand the territory of Israel. The Israeli leadership's motives were two-fold. Expanding Israeli territory, through occupation of Palestinian and other neighboring Arab lands, would fulfill one of Zionism's cherished aims while at the same time achieving, from their point of view, a security need arising more from psychological considerations than from those of space, distance, and topography, which Israel attempts to highlight whenever the security issue is raised.

The objective circumstances of its creation, in terms of time and place, lie behind Israel's psychological preoccupation with security. Unlike most of the Third World states in Asia and Africa which gained their independence in the wake of World War II, Israel was not a colony of an occupying state because it simply did not exist. Had this been the case, the battle for coexistence would never have arisen, since it would have been a foregone conclusion. But because Israel was planted on lands expropriated from Arabs at a time when they were fighting for freedom, independence, and territorial integrity, the problem of Israel's acceptance by the large Arab body — and hence of coexistence — has loomed large.

Recognizing this, Israel tried to impose itself by force, thus embarking on a vicious circle: The more force it used to impose itself, the greater the Arab qualms and rejection, which in turn served to fuel Israeli fears growing from an awareness of the recentness of its imposed creation in the midst of a vast sea of Arabs and, consequently, to trigger greater security concerns. Had security been a purely military matter, the Arabs would have had greater need to seek security guarantees in the context of peace discussions, given Israel's vast arsenal of sophisticated weapons and its strategic alliance with the United States.

This fact was brought home in the wake of the aggression of 1967, when, through acceptance of Resolutions 242 in 1967 and 338 in 1973, neighboring Arab countries also accepted Israel's existence. Instead of reciprocating this major concession, Israel procrastinated in order to gain time to create new facts in the occupied territories as a prelude to annexing them.

The Israeli leadership has persisted in its claim that it was not convinced either by Arab assurances regarding its borders — assurances growing out of Arab acceptance of international resolutions pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict — or by the fact that the Arabs were prepared to arrive at a just and durable peace with Israel. In order to impose its will by force, Israel continues to hold on to the concept of security based on territorial expansion and military strength.

The crux of the problem lies in the fact that while claiming not to be convinced by Arab assurances as to its security, Israel insists on rejecting the legitimacy of Palestinian national rights.

On the question of territorial expansion, Israel has had to face two problems.

First: that of perpetuating the occupation, with intent to expropriate and gradually absorb territory. Military strength was the obvious means of dealing with this problem.

Second: that of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, who succeeded, through their steadfastness, to press their cause on the agendas of international bodies, headed by the United Nations, where the affirmation of Palestinian national rights and their restoration was the subject of a large number of resolutions. The Palestinian issue has remained the subject of debate at every successive UN session, as well as in various international conferences and regional organizations, gaining or losing importance depending on global circumstances and concerns.

Given a state of affairs which enabled it to prolong its occupation of Palestinian territory through military strength, notwithstanding the will of the international community and Palestinian resistance, Israel proceeded to define its next goal: separating Palestinians from their land. For this purpose, Israel perceives the Palestinians as two peoples: a people on the outside with little weight, as far as Israeli designs on Palestinian territory are concerned, because they have already been separated from their land; and a people on the inside who constitute the real dilemma and are the primary enemy, precisely because of their physical presence on the land.

The question for Israel is how to effect a separation between the land and those Palestinians. For this purpose, Israel has adopted an integrated approach along two parallel lines:

First: to expropriate the land gradually by settlement and other means.

Second: to exert pressure on the Palestinians in order to uproot them from their land.

These two lines of approach are the backbone of Israel's policy on the Palestinian issue. However, it has become clear to Israel, after close to 19 years of occupation, that while it has made some progress on the first issue, it has met with little success on the other, mainly because of the steadfast attachment of the Palestinians to their national soil and the measures and policies we have implemented in Jordan to foil Israeli objectives — administrative measures as well as economic, financial, educational, and information policies.

The result of it all has been a major political dilemma currently dominating the political scene in Israel, preoccupying all political forces there. What should Israel do with the Palestinians, especially since their continued existence on their land, coupled with resistance to occupation, has created new tensions in addition to those already prevailing between Israel and the Arab states? These new tensions, which are a product of occupation-cum-settlement, transcend the conventional occupation and directly affect the occupying state by bringing it face to face with the issues of human rights and democracy. They touch upon Israel's international image and its very future. This poses the following question for the Israeli leadership:

How is Israel to behave toward the Palestinian people in the occupied territories at a time when it has almost completed the annexation of territory? Does it allow them to remain there or does it throw them out? If it allows them to stay, does it offer them the right of Israeli citizenship? Or does it adopt the apartheid model of South Africa?

If it is to evict them, how is that to be accomplished or justified? If it is to grant them citizenship, what is to happen to the concept of a pure Jewish state as envisaged by the founders of Zionism? Will world Jewry continue its support for Israel if it becomes a binational state?

If Israel treats the Palestinians along the lines of apartheid, how will it handle the democratic image vaunted by its supporters? How is it to reconcile its stance as the protector of persecuted Jewry while persecuting others who, despite all Israeli attempts at concealment, are in fact the legitimate owners of the land?

These are the vital questions currently under discussion in the corridors of Israeli politics at party and government levels. As we see it, they lead to three Israeli options.

1. The first argues for the annexation of the greater and less densely populated part of occupied Palestinian territory and the return to Jordan of the remaining and more densely populated segment. It is referred to as the Jordanian option, which we have rejected.

2. The second option calls for annexing all the territories and granting autonomy to the Palestinian inhabitants, without sovereignty over their land, on the ground that they are a large foreign community living on Israeli territory. This is an attempt to separate the Palestinians from their land as a prelude to their eviction when conditions may permit. The Palestinians have rejected this option and so have we.

3. The third option demands the annexation of territory and the eviction of the inhabitants to the east by military force. This prospect, however, does not lend itself to mere rejection, but requires much preparation on our part to ensure that it does not happen

It is important to note:

First: that each of these options is rooted in two considerations: the inescapable shared destiny of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples and the separation of the Palestinians from their land.

Second: that the third option, dependent on military force, is of a more recent nature than the other two. It surfaced during the last Israeli elections, and its proponents have seats in the Knesset today. It is gaining momentum, coloring current Israeli politics with an extreme rightwing hue. It has recently found an enthusiastic ally in the American right, which believes that the Israeli right is capable of protecting its interests and acting as a potent force in an Arab region torn by division and intellectual strife and plagued with inaction. The growth or decline of this movement in Israel depends on several factors, of which we the Arabs are perhaps the most important — depending on our level of awareness, the positions we take, and the course of action we adopt.

Is it not time we, and particularly our Palestinian brothers outside the occupied territories, whatever their affiliation, drew the proper conclusions and directed our attention to the land itself and the people living on it? Is it not time we identified the real issue and agreed to define the most immediate threat? Should we not come to a proper realization of the importance of steadfastness of the Palestinians in the occupied territories in their battle for survival? Is it not the Palestinians who, through their stubborn steadfastness, are carrying out the historic task of preserving the Palestinian identity and embodying national Palestinian rights on Palestinian soil?

What should we do for a people who, despite all organized pressure to uproot them, persist in tilling the soil, reaping harvests, and raising their children as best they can? If we are sincere in claiming that they are our foremost concern, what should we do for them? How do we reciprocate their marvelous steadfastness, they whose splendid resistance has proved day after day and year after year that a persecuted person who resists in his homeland is far better than a displaced one who threatens and postures. How should we support a people who, through their continued, distinctive existence on their land, endow their cause with vitality and justice?

What should we do for Jerusalem and the holy places which we mourn night and day? Will our earnest supplications lead to their rescue? Will they be protected by our constant glorification of their history and architecture? What are we really doing for Jerusalem and the holy mosque, or for the land and people there, other than supplying some material help, which is decreasing every year, or ringing slogans after meetings or coferences, or well-turned phrases in communiques, or the gist of arguments and disagreements between conflicting groups, or messages of despair emanating from Arab disarray?

You may well share with me the question of where the Palestine issue would have been today, or of what could have happened to the Palestinians in the occupied territories, if we in Jordan had chosen to sever our connections with them or relinquish our obligations toward them as individuals or institutions, or set up barriers to their produce or commodities? What would lie in store for us all if we were to step aside and content ourselves with mere posturing?

Brothers and sisters, because the third danger or third option, like the first and second, aims at resolving the Israeli dilemma at the expense of both the Palestinians and Jordan, Jordan has a special role to play, quite distinct from those of the other Arab countries.

While it is true that Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt share a geographical contiguity with Israel, Jordan is the prime target of Israel's step-by-step policy. Thus, the distinctive relationship between Jordan and Palestine is not a question we take lightly. We bring it up in order to draw attention to objective facts and conditions which the enemy attempts to exploit for the purpose of implementing its expansionist policy at the expense of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. The common links between the two peoples are not only a matter of shared history, experience, culture, economy, and social structure, but also a question of destiny. They represent a confluence of interest as well as of harm.

If Israel seeks to utilize it to its own benefit at our expense, then we, too, should resort to all national means, emanating from our responsibility to the nation and future generations, of bending our shared destiny to our benefit while we are facing these clear Israeli plans. I do not believe we need to elaborate on the true intent of the special Jordanian- Palestinian relationship to our Arab brothers. It is not a condition we created in order to set up an axis or forge a means for separate action. It is a fact recognized and taken into account by the entire world, just as it is by the enemy. We hope that our Arab brothers will heed it too and take it into their own account in the process of formulating positions or planning their actions.

Joint Jordanian-Palestinian action growing from this special relationship should be construed as initial movement in the service of common Arab action. In the final analysis, any progress represents progress on the joint Arab level, which cannot be achieved without complementarity between Jordanian- Palestinian action on one hand, and common Arab endeavors on the other.

The Palestinian people in the occupied territories are weak without the PLO. By the same token, the Palestinian people and the PLO, which represents its aspirations, hopes and interests, are weaker without Jordan, and all three are weaker without the Arab nation as a whole. This has been our vision in all our endeavors. The components are as clear as the sun; and the position we occupy vis-a-vis the Palestinian issue on the one hand, and the Arab world on the other, provides us with no alternative vision. In Jordan we stand in two circles at once: one representing the Palestine tragedy and the other residing in national commitment. This has dictated our position on direct confrontation with Israel on military and political levels.

One facet of our conflict with Israel perhaps lies in the fact that Israel is attempting to dislodge us from the circle of national commitment into the sphere of tragedy. On our part, we are resisting this with all our might, attempting in the process to endow the circle of commitment with content which is both practical and effective. National commitment is not a one-way street, nor is it a passive or negative stance. Armed with true content, it leads to proper preparation and action. If national commitment is taken to mean a state of inaction in regard to declared positions and is characterized by fatalism, dependence, or expectancy of what lies in store, this would mean only one thing to us; acquiescence in the fait accompli as well as a willing acceptance of the loss of what remains of Palestinian land and of the resulting destructive consequences allowing greater room for expansionist Zionist designs.

It is for this reason, dear brothers, that Jordan had to act and must continue to act. We cannot possibly close down borders and deal with the issue as separate from us. Experience has shown that inaction leads to erosion in positions, as well as on the ground. The state of no war-no peace which has been imposed on us is a salient manifestation of this inaction. We must break out of its grasp. We must absolutely assert that the suffocation resulting from giving in to the state of no war-no peace is as reprehensible as the suicide arising from action leading to the relinquishing of rights. As we move towards peace, we reject the latter proposition as strongly as we do the former.

Fellow citizens, Palestinian brothers, Arab brothers, this, then, is the way we view the Palestinian issue, its ramifications and probable developments. Our understanding is rooted in a sense of realism but is also committed to our goals and is informed by the requirements of Jordanian and Arab security in equal measure. Our obligations to Palestine, our policies, positions and our actions are all based on this view. As I indicated earlier, it was natural and reasonable, in light of the conflict and its possible ramifications, to direct our efforts along two parallel approaches in order to achieve the objectives defined at the Jordanian and Arab levels: restoring the occupied territories and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people within a framework of a comprehensive, just and permanent peace. The two approaches were: a defensive approach, comprising a build-up of internal military strength and a promotion of development to the limits of available resources and capabilities; and an interactive approach, comprising political movement in all areas and at all levels.

At the level of building up our internal strength, our planning and implementation emanated from the following principles:

1. Optimal utilization of our capabilities as well as of our human and natural resources.

2. Integration of these capabilities with those of other Arab countries.

3. Strengthening the national fabric, rallying our people around the two courses of defensive and interactive action and deepening their commitment to a defined and united goal.

In line with these principles, we have completed three development plans since the June war of 1967, and we are about to embark on the fourth. The plans have achieved a number of objectives deemed essential to the strength of the state. These included: a revitalization of the economy, badly damaged by the June war; building up infrastructure, such as roads, dams, canals, housing complexes, and energy, water and communications networks; utilization of natural resources; expanding education and training; setting up specialized cadres at all levels; and providing the facilities required for food security.

Side by side with the implementation of successive development plans, we moved to strengthen our Armed Forces, which are the basic cornerstone in the defense of our nation and state. We modernized the forces and provided them with arms and equipment, keeping abreast, to the extent possible, of rapid technological development. We established new military divisions and absorbed an increasing number of officers and men, raising the numbers to over a hundred thousand — one of the highest in the world as compared to the size of the population. In short, although shouldering major and clear responsibilities towards our own as well as Arab security, we did more than our human resources would permit. We have always looked to our Arab brothers for assistance in securing our needs for advanced weapons in order to bring our Armed Forces to the highest level of preparedness, our people having provided the regular army with the largest possible number of recruits.

In addition, we are training as many citizens as we can to act as a supportive reserve for the Armed Forces. To this end, we enacted the National Service Law, which has been applied with the utmost precision to all our young men who fall under its provisions, providing us with considerable reserves. We have also begun to set up the People's Army, which will eventually encompass all the kingdom's regions, cities and villages. Our objective is to achieve the highest level of defence capability leading to a fusion in Jordan — the prime target of Israeli expansionism — of army and people into one.

In brief, this is what we have accomplished at the level of the defensive approach, out of the conviction that we should build up our own strength in order to foil attempts at separating the Palestinian people from their land and to protect Jordan and the Arab East.

It is our hope that our brothers who contributed in the past to arming our Armed Forces will renew their commitment to providing us with the weapons we need from international sources. Their contribution would be a sincere embodiment of the integration of Arab efforts and capabilities. It would also be a fitting translation of the slogans raised by all with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict into action.

I might take this opportunity to make a quick comparison between the amount of military assistance received by Israel in the form of grants and loans from the United States during the period 1979-85 and that received by us in the face of clearly perceived danger and well-known pressures. Out of the allocations for arms purchases approved at the Baghdad summit over 7 years ago, Jordan has received a total of $2.5 billion, compared to $12.5 billion received by Israel during the same period, in addition to its own production of military equipment.

As for the second, or interactive, approach, which comprises political action at all levels, we have moved and are still moving along three fronts:

1. The Palestinian front

2. The Arab front

3. The international front

As I have already noted, the Palestinian front represents the cornerstone of Jordan's external, internal, and Arab policies. This is both axiomatic and irrefutable. For in addition to our national, religious, and moral commitment to Jerusalem, to the Holy Places, and to the Palestinian people and their homeland, we have a responsibility towards our own national security. Over the past 19 years, we have pursued action on this front in four distinct phases, each yielding a basis for movement. Thus, we now have four bases which, taken together, constitute the framework of our political movement towards our defined objective: achieving Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and restoring the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people in return for a permanent, just and comprehensive peace in the region. These bases are:

1. Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967, which affirmed the principle of Israeli withdrawal in return for peace. This resolution is now the basic cornerstone, enjoying international unanimity, for achieving a just and peaceful settlement. It emphasizes the principle of balance in any projected settlement. For the settlement to be permanent, it must be generally acceptable; and to be that, it must be equitable. History, particularly modern European history, is replete with examples of ineguitable settlements which proved to be no more than time bombs triggering further conflict between states and nations. And the element of equitability, or balance, in Resolution 242 resides in the principle of withdrawal in return for peace. Jordan not only participated in securing this resolution but has supported it since its adoption.

2. Security Council Resolution 338 in 1973, which reaffirmed Resolution 242 and introduced a new principle, namely that of negotiations between the parties concerned aimed at achieving a peaceful settlement, but under appropriate auspices. As we understand it, appropriate auspices means an international peace conference in which all parties involved in the conflict would participate, including the PLO, in addition to the five permanent members of the Security Council. The international community affirmed that appropriate auspices meant an international conference, by setting up the precedent of the Geneva Conference of 1973. We do not believe that that event was a mere coincidence, since the balance of negotiations between the conflicting parties

was in favor of Israel, which is the occupying power with a vast arsenal of advanced weapons at its disposal. This gave it an undue advantage over the Arab parties, and by extension, the ability to persist in its occupation and impose its will. This is particularly relevant, since Israel's declared opinion is at sharp variance with the concept of an equitable settlement. Given this situation, it was imperative that a new framework be sought to rectify the existing inequality and enable the conflicting parties to embark on negotiations on an equitable basis. The framework is no other than an international conference in which the five permanent members of the Security Council would participate, since it was from the Security Council that Resolutions 242 and 338 emanated, enunciating the principles of an equitable settlement, and since the Security Council is the international body responsible for interpreting the various resolutions and guaranteeing their implementation. Thus, Resolution 338 established the second basis: that of negotiating under the auspices of an international conference. Again, Jordan has supported this resolution since its issuance in 1973.

3. The Rabat Summit Resolution fo 1974, which considered the PLO the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. This resolution was adopted 27 years after the partition resolution, 10 years after the establishment of the PLO, and 7 years after the occupation by Israel of the remanining Palestinian territories and the adoption of Resolution 242. We accepted this resolution and we remain committed to it. In this respect, it constitutes the third basis of our political movement towards our defined objective. We believe it is especially important to emphasize this point before we proceed to shed some light on the important past and present implications of the resolution related to the course that the Palestinian issue has taken on the one hand, and its present status on the other.

Twenty seven years before the Rabat resolution, at the time of the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the Palestine partition resolution, the Arab governments had taken a position stipulating: first, that the Palestinian issue was an Arab issue; and second, that the Arab governments rejected the partition resolution beause it was unjust, inequitable and injurious to the Palestinian Arabs.

It was due to these considerations that the Arab states went to war against Israel when its creation was declared in 1948. Since that time, the Arabs, both those who were then independent and those who have since gained independence, have held fast to this position, namely that they assumed the responsibility with regard to the Palestinian issue on behalf of the Palestinians. The West Bank then entered into a union with Jordan as a result of a declaration by the majority of Palestinians there. In April 1950 the union was supported and ratified by an elected parliament with equal representation from the East and West Banks. The Gaza Strip continued under Egyptian administration until Israel occupied it, as well as the West Bank, in 1967. It is appropriate here, I believe, to call to mind that the unity declaration by the elected Jordanian parliament emphasized that all Arab rights in Palestine be protected and that those rights be defended by all legitimate means to the fullest extent without prejudice to the final settlement of Palestine's just cause. The PLO was established in 1964 for the political purpose of regulating the Palestinian voice under one organization which would speak for it with the purpose of keeping the Palestinian issue alive in the world arena and for the declared purpose of liberating Palestine. The Palestine to be liberated ranged from the whole of Palestine to Palestine as delineated by the partition resolution. The matter was left to the deduction and interpretation of Arab speakers and listeners alike. The significance of setting up the PLO as a way station was that the Arab governmetns at the time wished to reaffirm that the Palestinian issue was an Arab issue while the Palestinian people had a say and a role to play in the struggle for liberation.

This decision represented the first turning point in the Arab position between 1947 and 1964. In other words, the PLO was established not with the purpose of giving the Palestinians an exclusive say, but to include the PLO, in its capacity as a representative of the Palestinian people, in Arab positions and action vis-a-vis the Palestine issue — as a means of keeping it alive. This was confirmed in the years immediately following the establishment of the PLO, when it had no significant weight in matters pertaining to the Palestine issue, since the Arab states continued to hold the reins and make decisions at will. The PLO itself was a tool used by this or that Arab state on the basis of its political positions, whether at the Arab or international levels. When the June war erupted, the PLO was still a form almost devoid of any real content.

But in the wake of the June war, Palestinian resistance to Israeli occupation experienced rapid growth, with the result that form and content became one and the PLO came to embody the resistance to occupation and the struggle for the rights of the Palestinian Arabs. Thus, the PLO rejected Security Council Resolution 242 because it dealt only with occupied Palestinian territory and not with the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people. Because of our keen awareness of Israel's expansionist aims, it was natural that we should accord priority to restoring the territories occupied by Israel through war. Likewise, because of our sincere commitment to the resotration of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinians, we tried, along with Egypt, to perusade the PLO to separate the two objectives of our political action in the international arena. This separation would call for an attempt by the Arab states, whose territories had been occupied through war and were the subject of Resolution 242, to ensure Israeli withdrawal from these territories, while the PLO would continue to fulfill its role of representing the Palestinian people in their struggle for legitimate national rights above and beyond the mere withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories.

The PLO, however, rejected this line of thinking, as it had rejected Resolution 242, and proceeded to make this dual rejection a basis for its political stand on the Arab and world scenes. It also became the basis of its dealings with Jordan in particular, on the grounds of the following suspicions. First: There was the probability that Jordan might succeed in restoring the West Bank by virtue of its good relations with the West, which had influence over Israel. Second: Jordan had territorial ambitions in the West Bank. Third: As long as the possibility of Jordan's restoration of the West Bank existed, who would guarantee that Jordan would relinquish the territory thus restored to the PLO?

It is to be noted from this position, which is based on suspicion, that, at the time, the PLO was not fully aware of a basic fact emphasized by us and borne out by events, namely that Israel gave the utmost priority to territorial gain. It was also evident that the PLO based its dealings with Jordan on suspicion rather than trust.

In order to dispel PLO suspicions, we proposed in 1972 the establishment of a United Arab Kingdom which would lay the foundation for the future relationship between Jordan and Palestine. That proposal was nipped in the bud, as it was rejected by the PLO, by Israel, and by President Anwar al-Sadat, who severed diplomatic relations with Jordan in support of the PLO position. I should add that under President al-Sadat, Egypt had changed its policy of coordination with Jordan pursued by his predecessor the late President 'Abd al-Nasir since the June war of 1967.

The PLO persisted in rejecting any separation between the role of the Arab states in attempting to restore the occupied territories, in accordance with Security Council resolutions, and its own role of representing the struggle of the Palestinian people to restore their legitimate national rights. And in 1974, at the Rabat summit, the Arab states were unanimous in confirming this rejection, by deciding to regard the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. In view of Arab insistance shown at Rabat, we gave our approval despite a detailed presentation on our part of the negative repercussions on joint Arab action that would result from such a decision. Regardless of the manner with which the decision was received in Palestinian and Arab circles at the time, or of the resulting position achieved by the PLO on the international scene, or of our own commitment and adherence to it, a probing look at the decision, in the context of the Palestinian issue, reveals the following:

A. As a result, the question of the restoration of the occupied territories and the national rights of the Palestinian people came to be merged into one whole. In other words, the Rabat decision came to reflect the unanimous view of the Arab nation that the Palestinian issue should be resolved in toto. Mere termination of the effects of aggression was no longer an issue. As a result, the role of the PLO was to represent the Palestinian side in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict. Eight years later, the Arabs emphasized this by adopting what is now known as the Arab Peace Plan at the Fes summit in 1982.

B. The Arabs who had assumed responsibility for the Palestine issue in 1947 changed their position in 1974 by relegating a major part of this responsibility to the PLO.

C. The merger of the question of rights with the issue of withdrawal from the occupied territories and the involvement of the PLO in the manner I have outlined did not simplify the problem as anticipated. On the contrary, the process led to a further complication, as Israel proceeded to add the PLO question to the other complicated questions surrounding the Palestine issue. It raised questions on the PLO Charter, on PLO actions outside the occupied territories, and on the degree to which the PLO was a true representative of the Palestinian people. The net result was that defense of the PLO gradually replaced the basic issue, which was the liberation of occupied Palestinian territories. Perhaps the most salient evidence of this was that since 1974 no joint communique to which the PLO or an Arab state was a party, no speech or declaration by a Palestinian or Arab official, no resolution on the Palestinian issue by a regional or international organization, in whose work there was Palestinian or Arab participation, were enunciated or adopted without an express assurance that the PLO was the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Things got to the point where the PLO, legitimate rights, and territory became one or came to be regarded as synonyms of the Palestine issue. Some Palestinians went as far as regarding the PLO to be the land and the rights and considered themselves at one with the PLO. There was an ensuing confusion on priorities, the land no longer enjoying the highest priority or being regarded as the key to the restoration of the national rights of the Palestinian people.

D. The PLO did not in fact achieve the independence of action intended by the Rabat decision. Because its composition was based on a coalition of several organizations, most of which had connections with and loyalties to Arab and non-Arab states, it remained open to outside interference.

It is imperative that we keep these facts in mind as we speak of the Rabat resolution — the third basis of our political action.

4. The fourth basis emanated from the Arab Peace Plan adopted at the Fes summit in 1982. Its importance derives from several considerations. For the first time the Arabs had unanimously chosen the peace option. The PLO, which participated in the summit as a representative of the Palestinian people, agreed to the plan. The plan itself reflected a responsible and serious Arab position aimed at achieving a peaceful and equitable settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The question for all Arabs was no longer one of terminating the effects of aggression but of resolving the Palestinian issue in all its aspects, through the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, with Jerusalem as its capital, within the framework of a peaceful and comprehensive settlement. More important still, the Fest resolutions accepted the principles of Security Council Resolution 242, though without making an explicit reference to it. As is well known, I headed the 7-member committee set up by the summit, which traveled to Paris, Moscow, Beijing, and London in 1982 and 1983. During our discussions with leaders and officials there, I stressed the need for an international peace conference. World capitals welcomed the Arab Peace Plan because it demonstrated Arab sincerity in the search for peace. But the countries concerned perceived it as only a general framework, lacking a plan of action which would help give it the dynanism required for progress toward desired objectives, especially since the plan had allocated a distinctive role to the PLO. As I indicated in my speech to the Casablanca summit on 7 August 1985, there is no problem regarding the participation of Jordan and Syria in the peace process. The problem resides in paving the way for participation in that process by the PLO with the other parties as a representative of the Palestinian people in order to give the Fes resolutions the practicality of a workable plan. These, then, are the bases constituting our position with regard to the concept of a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue, namley: Security Council Resolution 242, Security Council Resolution 338, the Rabat summit resolution of 1974, and the Arab Peace Plan, which embodies in one form or another

the other three bases, with some additions pertaining to the national rights of the Palestinian people.

Sisters and brothers, as you know, the Arabs unanimously adopted the Fes plan on 9 September 1982, only days after the departure of the PLO from Beirut in the wake of Israel's savage invasion of Lebanon, during which the Israelis used many of the most advanced lethal weapons at their disposal. The invasion and its aftermath triggered a wave of international sympathy for the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. Growing even stronger after the Sabra and Shatilla massacres, it produced an international feeling of urgency on the need to resolve the Palestine issue and put an end to the plight of the Palestinian people. Concomitantly, there surfaced, albeit diffidently, an international, political insinuation in tune with the undeclared objections of the then Israeli Government. The insinuation was that the PLO was weak, hence not indispensable to any peace process pertaining to the Palestinians. We recongized this as the next to the last link in the chain of Israeli plans to control the Palestinian will and impose a settlement along the lines of declared Likud policies. We launched an immediate drive at Arab and international levels to warn against this, while reaffirming our support for the PLO. On 3 September 1982, we dispatched the chief of our Royal Court and our foreign minister to meet Mr Yasir 'Arafat, who had left Beirut for Athens, to reaffirm our support for the PLO as well as our concern for its well-being so that it could continue to fulfill its role toward its people and homeland.

In October 1982, we followed this by a political undertaking which engaged us in extensive talks with the PLO leadership aimed at reaching an incipient formula which could, with Arab support, become an Arab proposal incorporating the Reagan peace initiative and other international initiatives in accordance with the principles and purpose of the Arab Peace Plan adopted at the Fes summit on 9 September 1982. Those talks concentrated in particular on reaching a Jordanian-Palestinian formula, defining the future relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. I reached a final agreement with Mr 'Arafat on the text defining our joint future political moves within an Arab framework. However, the PLO Executive Committee, which held its meeting in Kuwait in early April 1983, did not endorse that text, thus putting an end to our first joint attempt to initiate a comprehensive Arab political drive based on Arab consensus for a just and lasting peace.

On 10 May 1983, the Jordanian Governemnt issued an official communique concerning the subject, in which it said:

In view of the results of the efforts we made with the PLO, and in compliance with the 1974 Rabat summit resolution, and through the strict observance of the independence of the Palestinian decision, we respect the decision of the PLO, being the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Accordingly, we leave it to the PLO and the Palestinian people to choose the ways and means for salvaging themselves and their land, and for the realization of their declared aims in the manner they see fit.

We in Jordan, having refused from the beginning to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians, will neither act separately nor in lieu of anybody in Middle East peace negotiations. Jordan will work as a member of the Arab League, in compliance with its resolutions, to support the PLO within our capabilities, and in compliance with the requirements of our national security for the sake of Palestine and the Arab East.

Further contacts between Jordan and the PLO ceased except within the framework of the joint committee for the steadfastness of the occupied territories. The PLO became consumed by its internal differences, which resulted in the departure of the Palestinian leadership led by 'Arafat from Tripoli, Lebanon, on 20 January 1983. This was followed by attempts at reconciliation between the parties of the Palestinian coalition within the PLO, and beween the PLO and other Arab states. It was then that the problem of convening the 17th PNC appeared, particularly the question of where to hold that meeting.

In early September 1984, a member of the Palestinian leadership met with me and conveyed to me that the PLO hoped to convene the PNC in Amman. I welcomed their request.

On 27 Septemebr 1984, I received Mr 'Arafat, accompanied by other members of the PLO leadership, at Al-Nadwah Palace in Amman. During our meeting, Mr 'Arafat expressed the wish of the Palestinian leadership to convene the PNC in Amman. We officially notified him that Jordan welcomed such a convening.

On 22 November 1984, I opened the 17th session of the PNC by delivering a speech which contained our assessment of prevailing Palestinian conditions and our conclusion that we needed to move politically outside the status quo of no peace-no war, which only helped to advance expansionist Zionist designs and posed serious dangers to the Palestinian issue, the Palestinian people, and Palestinian land, as well as a consequent threat to Jordan's national security. We proposed to the PNC members our view of future cooperation, should the PLO decide to work with Jordan to reach a joint Jordanian-Palestinian formula, and I said the following:

Let us be frank about your sacred cause. It holds the same interest for us as it does for you and its repercussions affect us as they affect you. The international position at large is one that perceives the possibility of restoring the occupied territories through a Jordanian-Palestinian formula. This requires commitments from both parties which the world deems necessary for the achievement of a just, balanced, and peaceful settlement. If you find this option convincing — recommended further by our ties as two families linked together by a united destiny and common goals — we are prepared to go with you along this path and present the world with a joint initiative for which we marshal support. If, on the other hand, you believe that the PLO is capable of going it alone, then we say to you: Godspeed, you have our support. In the final analysis, the decision is yours. Whatever it is, we will respect it because it emanates from your esteemed council, which is the representative of the Palestinian people.

I also pointed out in that speech the general guidelines which would constitute the framework for our proposed initiative. These were:

1. Security Council Resolution 242, of which I said:

The existing facts in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas require us to adhere to Security Council Resolution 242 as a basis for a just and peaceful settlement. The principle of territory for peace is the landmark which should guide us in any initiative we present to the world. This principle is not a precondition but a framework within which negotiations will be carried out. As such, it is non-negotiable. Negotiations we deem necessary within the framework of an international peace conference should revolve around the means, methods, and commitments which would guarantee the achievement of the principle of territory for peace.

2. The international conference, of which I said:

The international conference would be held under the auspices of the United Nations and would be attended by the permanent members of the Security Council and by all the parties involved in the conflict. The PLO would attend on an equal footing with the other parties, since it is the party empowered to address the most important and momentous aspect of the Middle East crisis, namely, the Palestinian dimension.

3. A formula defining the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, of which I said:

Organizing the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is a basic responsibility of the Jordanian and Palestinian people. No other party has the right to interfere or decide for them.

Brothers and sisters, the PNC ended its meetings in Amman, having provided an opportunity for our brothers in the occupied territories to view its deliberations on issues which bore directly on their existence and future. Their hopes were revived, and delegations representing them began to arrive in Amman, urging us and the Palestinian leadership to reach a common formula which could rally Arab and international support behind it. We left the Palestinian leadership to choose the path it wished to follow.

In January 1985, we received the reply that the PLO Executive Committee had chosen to work with us on our proposal for joint political action. We started our consultations with 'Arafat's envoys on the third general outline —the Jordanian-Palestinian formula — since this formula constituted the base from which we were to move on the Arab and international arenas to convene an international peace conference.

In February 1985, 'Arafat, accompanied by other members of the Palestinian leadership, arrived in Amman. An expanded meeting was held in Al-Nadwah Palace which was concluded by the signing of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, known as the 11 February Accord. This accord incorporated the following principles:

1. Territory in return for peace as established in UN and Security Council resolutions.

2. The right of self-determination for the Palestinian people: Palestinians will exercise their inalienable right of self- determination when it becomes possible to do so within the context of the formation of the proposed confederated Arab states of Jordan and Palestine.

3. Resolution of the problem of Palestinian refugees in accordance with UN resolutions.

4. Resolution of all aspects of the Palestine question.

5. On this basis, peace negotiations will be conducted under the auspices of an international conference in which the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties involved in the conflict will participate, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, within a joint delegation —a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Our assessment, which was also shared by the PLO, was that the accord constituted the beginning of collective Arab action to be followed by rallying the international community, which had become a mere spectator since the singing of the Camp David accords and which had only paid polite lipservice since the initiation of the Arab Fes Peace Plan.

We envisaged the Jordanian-Palestinian accord as one of the links in the chain of collective Arab efforts, providing a mechanism for the Arab Peace Plan while paving the path for facilitating the PLO to engage itself in the international effort aimed at establishing a just, permanent, and comprehensive peace.

As soon as the accord was announced, the wide international interest in the cause of peace in the Middle East reemerged after a period of democracy. More light was shed on the Arab peace principles which became a central theme of discussion. The accord became the focal point of discussion both regionally and internationally. In other words, life was again breathed into the peace efforts after they were nearly buried in the grave of no peace-no war. The Palestinian people's hopes of salvation, particularly those under occupation, were revived.

The accord became a mover for the peace process because of the principles it contained. These were:

1. The accord's affirmation of a peaceful resolution to the conflict in accordance with the UN Charter.

2. The accord's conformity with the principles of the Arab Peace Plan, derived from United Nations resolutions concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict in general and the Palestinian problem in particular.

3. The agreement between Jordan and the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, to form a confederation between Jordan and Palestine.

This last item, while it reflects the objective considerations which require close institutional links between Jordan and a free Palestine to the mutual benefit of their peoples and the Arab nation at large, provides the key, or mechanism, to the peace process for two main reasons:

First, it justifies PLO participation in the proposed international conference within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Since confederation is the ultimate objective, why not have the two parties concerned assume one of the confederation's functions before it is established as a reality on the ground, particularly since this function allows for the participation of the PLO in the international conference which in the past decade has posed one of the most difficult obstacles in convening an international peace conference?

Second, it lays the foundations for a responsible role for the PLO in realizing and safeguarding a just settlement through its links with Jordan, the sovereign state which enjoys credible international standing due to its serious and sincere efforts to achieve peace.

Dear brethren, after signing the 11 February accord and the agreement of the PLO Executive Committee, which was empowered by the PNC to arrive at a joint formula with Jordan, we embarked with the Palestinian leadership upon drawing up a plan for our proposed action. Two objedtives were defined for this purpose:

1. To rally international support for the convening of an international peace conference, to be attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties involved in the conflict. This conference would be convened under the auspices of the United Nations and called for by the UN secretary general.

2. To ensure that an invitation will be extended to the PLO, representing the Palestinian people, to attend the conference within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Before embarking on our joint action, we needed to ascertain the position of the state concerned regarding the abovementioned objectives. Our inquiries indicated the need for us to move on four fronts:

1. Within the Arab world, so that Arab positions could be shifted from making public statements to marshalling, coordinating, and organizing the elements of Arab potential to serve this cause through continuous and conscientious efforts. Our dialogue with our Arab brothers was conducted through bilateral contacts as well as collectively when I and 'Arafat jointly explained the dimensions, motives, foundations, and objectives of the 11 February accord at the Casablanca Arab summit conference in August 1985.

2. On the international front, in order to stimulate the interest of peace in the Middle East by reiterating the seriousness of our undertaking and the credibility of its expected results. Except for the two superpowers which had their own calculations, our joint effort on the international arena was well received and encouraged, whether by the UN secretary general, regional organizations like the EEC or the other three permanent members of the Security Council. Our dialogue with many states was achieved through bilateral contacts, either separately by the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the PLO, or through joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegations which visited Beijing, Paris, the Vatican, and Rome when Italy was the president of the European community. We had also planned for a joint delegation to visit London in October 1985.

3. The Soviet Union, in an attempt to change its position regarding the international conference, since it held the position that only the two superpowers should participate in the conference and not all the five permanent members of the Security Council. There was also the issue of Palestinian representation at the conference in accordance with the Jordanian-Palestinian accord to which the Soviet Union objected. Several contacts were made with Soviet officials aimed at explaining how the Jordanian-Palestinian accord be employed to revitalize the peace process and requesting the Soviet Union to receive a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in Moscow. However, the Soviet Union did not change its position despite our repeated attempts. On 9 November 1985, in a meeting held at Al-Nadwah Palace, we reiterated our firm position to hold an international conference.

4. The United States, which is close to the Israeli position. A special effort was therefore needed with the U.S. side since, without the participation of Israel, the party in occupation of Arab territories, there could be no international conference. And since there were no direct channels of communications between the United States and the PLO, Jordan undertook the responsibility of dialogue with the United States, but in consultation with the Palestinian leadership. When we first briefed U.S. officials on the accord and explained it to them, it became evident that we were facing a problem with the Americans on two points: the principle of convening an international conference and the PLO's participation in this conference as a representative of the Palestinian people. It also became evident that the U.S. position on these two objectives to a large degree reflected the Israeli position. It was clear that our dialogue with the United States would require a major and concerted effort. In the face of these realities and facts, we began our difficult endeavor, which lasted 1 year and to which I referred earlier in my speech as the second phase of our coordination with the PLO leadership. This was the last chapter of our diplomatic effort to reach a comprehensive, just, and permanent peace.

Brothers and sisters, in this last part of my speech I shall describe to you the important features of every phase of our efforts during this last year. In order to clarify the picture for you, a reference to three facts must first be made:

1. Every round of talks between us and the U.S. Administration was always preceded by consultation with the Palestinian leadership followed by further briefing and reassessment with that leadership.

2. Our discussions with the U.S. Administration in every round of talks dealt with two separate issues: the issue of the international peace conference and the issue of Palestinian representation through the PLO.

3. When we started these discussions with the U.S. Administration in February 1985, there was already another topic under discussion relating to Jordan's request to purchase U.S. arms. This issue was started at the end of the Carter Presidency, and continued through the Reagan Presidency. Jor-

dan adopted a very definite policy regarding this when we started our dialogue to revive the peace process. This position stipulated that there should be no linkage between the U.S. arms deal to Jordan — a bilateral issue — and the peace effort, which has an international dimension.

Throughout all our meetings with U.S. officials, we focused on two issues, as I mentioned earlier. However, during the period between the signing of the Jordanian-Palestinian accord and September 1985, we concentrated our attention on the issue of Palestinian representation and the means to ensure the participation of the PLO in an international conference. I shall now review chronologically the stages pertaining to this issue.

We had agreed with the PLO leadership from the outset on the need to emphasize the concept of Jordanian-Palestinian partnership while dealing with the Palestinian dimension on the background of the larger Arab-Israeli conflict. On this basis, joint delegations visited world capitals, as I mentioned earlier. They also planned to visit Moscow and Washington. Moscow declined to receive the joint delegation in keeping with the Soviet Union's position vis-a-vis the 11 February accord. Washington, however, while not refusing the accord, did not endorse all its principles. Therefore, the need to concentrate on the United States became apparent to us, just as the need to concentrate on the Soviet Union became apparent.

We agreed with the Palestinian leadership on the following procedures for joint action:

1. We asked the U.S. Administration to start a dialogue with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation composed of Jordanian Government officials and members chosen by the PLO.

2. After this dialogue, the PLO would declare its acceptance of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

3. If this took place, the United States would no longer be bound by its previous position not to conduct any talks with the PLO before the later's acceptance of the two pertinent Security Council resolutions. Thus, the United States would recognize the PLO and a meeting between U.S. officials and members of the PLO could be held in Washington to discuss the issue of a peaceful settlement and relations between them would be normalized.

4. As a result of the normalization of U.S.-Palestinian relations a major political obstacle blocking the Arab Peace Plan, which gave an important role to the PLO, would have been removed. Arab efforts could then be channeled to pursue the efforts with the United States and other countries to convene an international peace conference.

After agreeing on this procedure with the Palestinian leadership, we accordingly contacted the officials in the U.S. Administration at the end of March 1985 and presented them with the idea of meeting a joint delegation in preparation for the next two steps which would follow as a result of the meeting.

In early April 1985, we received the U.S. reply which,in principle, accepted this proposal provided that the Palestinian members of the joint delegation were not leading members of the PLO or any fedayeen organization.

We consulted with the Palestinian leadership, which provided us with the names of three candidates. The Americans refused them because they did not meet their criteria and asked that we provide them with the names of others who did.

In May 1985, we met with the U.S. secretary of state in Qaba, who reiterated the administration's position regarding the subject of the names. However, he did not exclude those who were members of the PNC.

The U.S. side expressed its government's doubts about the PLO's intentions and its government's fears that if the suggested meeting were to take place between a U.S. official and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation —a meeting after that would not be followed by PLO's acceptance of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 — the PLO would obtain a political weapon as a result of its member's meeting with an American official. The U.S. Government would then be left to face criticism and political troubles resulting from this in the U.S. arena. Thus, the serious political efforts would end at that point.

Our prime minister conveyed this recent U.S. stand to Yasir 'Arafat in a meeting held at the Prime Ministry on 18 May 1985. At that time, we were preparing for a visit to Washington. In order to remove the U.S. fears, the prime minister agreed with Yasir 'Arafat on the text of a press statement which we would make at the end of our talks with the U.S. President.

The statement which I made at the White House garden on 29 May 1985 says: I also asserted to President Reagan that, on the basis of the Jordanian agreement with the PLO signed on 11 February, as a result of the talks which I recently held with the PLO, and in view of our sincere desire to achieve peace, we are determined to negotiate to achieve a peaceful settlement within the framework of an international conference on the basis of the related UN resolutions, including Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The U.S. officials affirmed, during my talks in Washington, their position regarding Palestinian participation in the joint delegation. They limited the number to four, two from the occupied territories and two from the outside. They requested that we provide them with these names in advance and as soon as possible so that the U.S. Administration could make its decision at the appropriate time.

Upon our return to Amman in June 1985, we conveyed to the Palestinian leadership our discussions in Washington. They in turn accepted this proposal and promised to provide us with the names of the candidates as soon as possible. We waited until 11 July 1985, when some names were provided to us. We were then told that a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee had discussed this subject and had agreed upon the names of the candidates.

On 12 July 1985, we relayed a list of seven names to the U.S. Administration and waited for the administration to inform us of its approval of four of the names on that list. We agreed that no public announcement should be made on this issue. But a few days later, we were surprised when the world press began to discuss those names. Suddenly the issue turned into a U.S. political issue. The press began to discuss it and the Zionist lobby activated influential political institutions in opposition to it, culminating in pressure on the U.S. Administration to justify, defend, and finally retract its position. As a result, we received American approval of only two names from the list, instead of four: one from the West Bank and the other from the Gaza Strip. After inquiries we were told by U.S. officials that the administration was still not sure that the PLO would fulfill the second phase of the agreed scenario, namely, to accept Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

On 15 August 1985, a meeting was held at our prime minister's residence in Amman attended by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the minister of the court and the foreign minister from the Jordanian side, and Yasir 'Arafat, accompanied by Khalil al-Wazir, Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya and Muhammad Milhim from the Palestinian side. During that meeting, the prime minister again asked 'Arafat whether he was clear on the method of proceeding, particularly with regard to the second phase — PLO readiness to accept Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. 'Arafat reaffirmed his acceptance of all steps and arrangements agreed upon between us, including the PLO's readiness to accept the abovementioned resolutions.

In light of 'Arafat's reply, we informed the U.S. Administration that the suspicions it had on this subject were not justified and that we were awaiting their positive reply concerning the date of the meeting between U.S. officials and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

On 7 September 1985, we received the U.S. reply, which said that it was not possible to hold the meeting, thus terminating this scenario before the first step, originally expected in June, was taken. This came at the time we were preparing for a visit to New York to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the United Nations, and to Washington to discuss bilateral issues and the peace process with the U.S. Administration.

Assessment of the situation, prior to the visit, led us to believe that we could pursue our dialogue with the United States by concentrating this time on the second phase of the process, the international conference, since not much progress had been achieved on the issue of Palestinian representation. Our reading of the U.S. position led us to believe that further discussions could take place on that other issue, which was last discussed in May 1985. I mentioned earlier that from the beginning our dialogue with the Americans had dealt with two issues seperately: Palestinian representation and the international conference, with emphasis on the subject of Palestinian representation.

I will now turn to our efforts on the second issue, the convening of an international conference.

In May 1985, in our discussions with the U.S. Administration in Washington, we raised the issue of convening such a conference because we considered it to be the venue for all parties concerned to meet, including the PLO. The U.S. position was a flat rejection of an international conference. Instead, the United States proposed that, after the PLO was brought into the peace talks, a meeting should be set up between Israel and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, under the auspices of the United States, to be held in an U.S. city. Upon learning this, we decided to cut our visit short and reaffirmed to them our definite and unequivocal rejection of seeking a unilateral approach similar to that of Camp David in the negotiations.

The U.S. Administration then changed its position and proposed that the talks could be held at the United Nations in Geneva. Once again, we informed the U.S. Administration that we rejected this proposal, like the one before it, as we did not see that the problem was one of where the talks should be held. We reiterated that Jordan's unwavering position was that it sought to reach a comprehensive settlement through the convening of an international conference attended by all the parties to the conflict, including the permanent members of the Security Council. As a result, the U.S. Administration reconsidered its proposal and promised to seriously ponder the issue of convening an international conference. We accepted this and continued our discussions concerning the issue of Palestinian representation.

During talks in Washington in October 1985, we again raised the issue of an international conference after having proposed it to the administration prior to our departure for the United States. Meetings were held between Jordanian and U.S. officials in Washington. The United States submitted a proposal concerning the international conference, which, after careful examination, seemed to suggest a conference in name only. We on the other hand insisted that the conference should have clear powers.

Among the various U.S. suggestions was the inclusion of the Soviet Union in the conference only after it restored diplomatic relations with Israel, because this was an Israeli condition. We argued for the rejection of this approach for the following reasons:

1. An international conference without the participation of the Soviet Union would be a flawed conference.

2. If the reason to exclude the Soviet Union from the conference was that it had no diplomatic relations with Israel, which is a party to the conflict, the United States on its part does not recognize the PLO, which is equally a party to the conflict. Thus, in this regard, the Soviet Union and the United States were in the same position.

3. It would be futile to plan seriously to convene an international peace conference if any party had the right to place conditions on who could attend. This applies to the five permanent members of the Security Council as well as the parties involved in the conflict. Therefore, it was imperative that an invitation be extended to Syria, the PLO, and the Soviet Union to attend the conference if the peace process was to continue and the efforts for a just and comprehensive peace were to produce fruitful results.

After extensive discussions lasting 3 days, the United States accepted the following points which we proposed:

1. The UN secretary general would issue invitations to an international conference under UN auspices.

2. Invitations to attend the conference would be issued to the permanent members of the Security Council, including the Soviet Union, in addition to the parties involved in the conflict.

3. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 would form the basis for the international conference.

4. The Americans held to their position of requiring acceptance by the PLO of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, since these formed the basis for the convening of the international conference. We agreed to this understanding on the basis that 'Arafat had himself agreed to this last August.

We continued our intensive discussions with the U.S. Administration concerning the powers of the conference and we insisted that it should not be a conference in name only, but rather that it should be one that was effective and had a clear mandate. Despite prolonged discussions, we did not reach a final understanding with the U.S. Administration regarding this issue. We agreed to continue our discussions on this central point, and considered that what we had agreed upon constituted a basis from which to proceed. While we were still in Washington, the cycle of terrorism and counterterrorism began with the Larnaca incident, followed by the Israeli raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunis. This had a negative effect on the peace process and our efforts were once again jeopardized by fears and suspicions.

Upon our return to Amman in October 1985 we informed the Palestinian leadership of what we had accomplished during our talks in Washington. We informed them that the PLO would be required to accept Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 in order to be invited to the international conference, to accept the principle of participating in negotiations with the Government of Israel as part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation within the context of the international conference, which would be convened to establish a comprehensive settlement, and to renounce terrorism. We also informed the Palestinian leadership that our discussions with the U.S. Administration regarding the question of the mandate of the conference were still inconclusive, and that further discussions would follow. We made it clear to the Palestinian leadership that a written statement of acceptance was needed from them, while leaving them to choose the appropriate time to announce that approval. The written acceptance was needed so that we could encourage the U.S. Administration to proceed earnestly to convene an international conference and to reassure them that the PLO was anxious to participate in the peace process. We had already made clear to the U.S. Administration that Jordan would not attend the conference unless invitations were extended to the PLO, sister Syria, and all other parties involved in the conflict, because we are after a comprehensive peace.

We also promised the Palestinian leadership that their acceptance would be kept confidential and shown only to the concerned U.S. officials until they themselves decided to announce it.

On 7 November 1985, after talks with President Husni Mubarak, Yasir 'Arafat issued a statement in Cairo denouncing terrorism in all its forms, irrespective of its source. The PLO Executive Committee then held a meeting in Baghdad, and as we were not officially notified of its decisions, we awaited 'Arafat's visit to Amman to hear from him, once again, the final position of the PLO on Security Council Resolution 242.

Meanwhile, I made a private visit to London on 7 January 1986 for medical reasons. While I was there, the assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs [Richard Murphy] arrived in London with a U.S. delegation. He requested to see me to continue our discussions regarding the issue of the international conference. We held two rounds of talks in London, the first attended by the prime minister and the chief of the Royal Court on 18 January, and the second, on 20 January, attended by the chief of the Royal Court. Throughout both meetings the discussions focused on defining the mandate of the international conference and the participation of the PLO, as both issues had become interwoven as a result of progress achieved in the peace process. The American position had developed to the extent of agreeing to the right of the concerned parties to submit any disagreements between them to the conference. However, we could not reach full agreement regarding the role of the conference in settling disputes among the negotiating parties.

Concerning the issue of PLO participation in the conference, the American delegation reiterated its previous position requiring that the PLO should first accept Security Council Resolution 242 in order for the United States to start a dialogue with it. The United States did not commit itself to accepting the inviting of the PLO to the conference. Our reply was that we wanted the United States to agree to have the PLO invited to participate in the conference if it accepted Security Council Resolution 242. This point became the subject of extensive discussions, during which I asked for a clear American position to relay to the PLO. The American delegation agreed to take this up at the highest level on its return to Washington.

On 21 January 1986, I returned to Amman having achieved these results on the issues of an international conference and PLO participation. On 25 January 1986, our efforts bore fruit when I received a final reply from the U.S. Administration concerning PLO participation in the international conference. Their reply came in a written commitment which said:

When it is clearly on the public record that the PLO has accepted Resolutions 242 and 338, is prepared to negotiate peace with Israel, and has renounced terrorism, the United States accepts the fact that an invitation will be issued to the PLO to attend an international conference.

The United States would then start contacts with the Soviet Union with the purpose of having them participate, together with the other permanent members of the Security Council, in the international conference, which would be convened by the secretary general of the United Nations.

On that same day, 'Arafat arrived in Amman with a Palestinian leadership delegation. We held 4 extensive meetings in 4 days. I presided over three of these meetings. The discussion concentrated on the subject of American assurances and the PLO's position regarding those assurances. We assumed that the PLO would accept these since:

1. The assurances met the PLO's requirements.

2. They reflected a significant change in the U.S. position in favor of the PLO. The U.S. position regarding the PLO when we first started our intensive year-long dialogue had been that the United States would only enter into talks with the PLO after the latter's acceptance of Security Council Resolution 242. Now, by comparison, the present U.S. position was that it was willing to go one step beyond talking to the PLO by agreeing to have the PLO invited to the international conference.

But our brothers in the Palestinian leadership surprised us by refusing to accept Security Council Resolution 242 within this context, while acknowledging what they described as our "extraordinary effort," which had caused a significant change in the U.S. position, and which would not have been possible had it not been for the respect, credibility and trust which our country, Jordan, enjoyed in this world.

In spite of this, we continued our discussions with the PLO leadership in the hope of convincing them that their acceptance would cement a very important link in peace efforts leading to an international conference, which in the unanimous view of the Arabs and all peace-loving peoples constitutes the major venue for the establishment of a comprehensive, permanent, and just peace. It is towards the objective of convening such a conference that we have worked tirelessly for the past 9 years, but to no avail. Now that the opportunity presented itself, we hoped that it would not be wasted like other missed opportunities if we were to remain faithful to our goals of saving our people and liberating our land and Holy Places.

The answer of the brothers in the Palestinian leadership was that they wanted an amendment to the proposed text in return for acceptance of Resolution 242. The amendment would require the addition of a statement indicating the agreement of the United States to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination within the context of a confederation betweeen Jordan and Palestine, as stated in the February 11 accord. We reminded the Palestinian leadership that the subject of self-determination within the context of a confederation was a matter for Jordanians and Palestinians and that no other party had anything to do with it. Nothing was to be gained from the support of this or that state as long as we ourselves were committed to this text. The important thing was to achieve withdrawal first, then to proceed with what we had agreed upon. We reminded them that this had always been our position and that it had been clear all along, starting from my opening address in Amman at the 17th PNC session, in which I referred to the proposed Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, and continuing through all our discussions to date.

We also said to them that involving the United States, or others, in this matter meant that we were voluntarily opening the door to others to interfere in our common concerns and those of a people who had a sovereign right to their land and their own decisionmaking — unless they were dealing with us on a basis of lack of confidence. But despite this, our brothers in the Palestinian leadership insisted on their position. And despite the fact that the most recent American position had satisfied PLO demands, we agreed to resume contacts with officals in Washington through the American Embassy in Amman on the evening of 27 January 1986.

The American response was as follows:

1. The February 11 accord is a Jordanian-Palestinian accord which does not involve the United States.

2. The United States supports the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people as stated in the Reagan peace initiative.

3. The PLO, like any other party, has the right to propose anything it wishes, including the right of self-determination, at the international conference.

4. For all these reasons, the United States adheres to its position.

We relayed the American response to Yasir 'Arafat during an enlarged meeting at Al-Nawdah Palace on 28 January 1986, but he insisted that we try again. We indicated to him that we had gone as far as we could with the U.S. Administration at that stage, but he insisted. Thus, we got in touch once again and the reply was still that the United States adhered to its position.

On the morning of 29 January 1986, an enlarged meeting was held at the Prime Ministry and I headed the Jordanian side. I informed Yasir 'Arafat and his party of the American position as reaffirmed to us once again. The meeting ended with a statement by Yasir 'Arafat saying that he needed to consult the Palestinian leadership. We asked him to give us the final answer on the PLO position with regard to Resolution 242 while he was still in Amman, although we had ascertained, only then, that the PLO's decision to reject Resolution 242 had been made during the meeting of the PLO leadership in Baghdad on 24 Novemebr 1985. We had not, however, officially been notified of that.

On the same evening, 29 January 1986, we received a suggestion from the U.S. Administration to the effect that the United States felt that since the PLO could not presently decide to accept Resolution 242, the PLO could wait until a time it considered appropriate. The United States felt that the peace process could still proceed with Palestinian participation from the occupied territories. The opportunity would remain available for the PLO to take part in the international conference the moment it accepted Resolution 242.

In our reply to the United States, we rejected this suggestion, indicating that this time the suggestion concerned not only the PLO but Jordan as well, since our unwavering position was: no separate settlement.

President Reagan wrote to me on 31 January 1986 explaining his inability to proceed in his efforts with Congress for the sale of sophisticated U.S. arms to Jordan. We had sought to acquire the arms since 1979 in the face of fierce Zionist opposition. I had received assurances from the President that our requirements would be met.

On the evening of the same day, the minister of the court informed Yasir 'Arafat of the latest American suggestion to proceed with the peace process without the PLO until it met the set conditions. He also informed him of our categorical refusal of this suggestion and apprised him of President Reagan's letter explaining his inability to meet Jordan's requirements.

On 5 February 1986, the American side presented a new text containing the approval by the United States to convene an international conference on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, including the realization of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. We met with Yasir 'Arafat on the same evening at Al-Nadwah Palace and we handed him the new American text. He promised to study it and at the same time gave us three differently worded texts which were the same in substance, reaffirming the same PLO position which we had heard from the start of this round of meetings.

On 6 February, Yasir 'Arafat had a meeting with our prime minister at his residence. The meeting was attended by the chief of the Royal Court and by 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya and Hani al-Hasan from the Palestinian side. 'Arafat informed the prime minister that despite the positive development of the American position, recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people did not encompass the right to self-determination to which, the PLO insisted, the United States ought to give its prior approval.

On 7 February, Yasir 'Arafat left Amman still insisting on his position and on the reasons why the PLO was unable to accept Resolution 242. Hinging on this agreement, of course, was an immediate opening of an U.S.-Palestinian dialogue on the basis of which we would have continued our efforts to convene an international peace conference to which the PLO would be invited to participate as a representative of the Palestinian people.

Thus, another chapter came to an end in the search for peace. Another extremely important and significant round of Jordanian- Palestinian action was terminated — after a full year of serious and persistant efforts to transform the PLO role, referred to in the Arab Peace Plan, into a significant reality that would go beyond a mere statement of positions. It would have led to the presence and participation by the PLO in an international conference at the invitation of the UN secretary general, to represent its people and speak on their behalf with their adversary under the eyes of the world, side by side with the other parties concerned and the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Yes, brothers and sisters: We have gone through a grueling year of intensive efforts and have faced a host of obstacles, in many instances exceeding the limits of our endurance. But we succeeded in achieving what had been felt to be impossible. We opened up avenues that had been considered closed to us and to our Arab and Palestinian brothers. We were able to carry the Fes resolution to a point just preceding the international peace conference, for which it was called. Buoyed on the one hand by progress achieved in providing a real opportunity for peace and, pained on the other by impediments wnen we were so close to the finishing line, we have felt it imperative to give a full public account of the situation and once again turn the matter over to the Palestinian fora in the occupied territories and the diaspora as well as Arab capitals and organizations.

Fellow citizens, Palestinian brothers, Arab brothers, this is the way in which we view the present status of the Palestinian issue within and outside the occupied territories. It is our analysis of developments in the context of the state of no war-no peace and their effect on the future of the Palestinian people, who are threatened with separation from their land. It is also an account of our joint action with the PLO leadership over a year of continuous effort aimed at moving the peace process, before it is too late, out of the debilitating sphere of inaction into the revitalizing realm of positive action. It was undoubtedly a precious opportunity to achieve our objectives and thwart enemy plans which are clear for all to see.

But if this phase of political action with the PLO has ended differently from what we had hoped for, the principles and tenets of the Jordanian-Palestinian accord will continue to embody the foundations governing relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples with regard to equality of rights and obligations in facing our joint destiny.

Brothers, it has been my destiny to experience the various phases of the Palestine tragedy, as well as the results of the implementation of Zionist plans drawn up by forces which know what they want and carry out what they have planned, stage by stage. I have not seen or observed any emergence of the long-awaited Arab plan which would be capable of defending the most just cause of a brotherly and dear people who surely deserve better than their continued plight currently holds for them.

It has also been my destiny to carry out my responsibilities in an Arab country, contiguous to the land of Palestine, which contains the remains of my ancestor Hashim in Gaza and which was blessed by the sojourn of my ancester Prophet Muhammad ibn 'Abdallah — May God's prayers and blessings be upon him — whom the Almighty selected to inspire mankind and whom He sent to the First Qibla and the Third Holy Place in Jerusalem, where my great grandfather is buried — a great grandfather who sacrificed all in defense of the rights of the Palestinian people on their national soil and asked to be buried within the confines of the Holy Mosque — and also my grandfather, who moved to the defense of Al-Aqsa Mosque in 1948 in the face of the most difficult circumstances which could confront a leader at the time. With me at his side, he fell, a martyr in the mosque which he had rescued.

As I see what goes on in Jerusalem, Gaza, Nabulus, Hebron, and other cities, villages, and camps on the West Bank and at the same time observe what goes on outside, my heart turns heavy. I have no alternative but to apprise you of the facts. No one can expect anything but rejection on my part of the prevailing state of fumbling which I see all around us. No one can expect anything but frank disclosure from me. I will not be a party to concealment at a most critical juncture in your lives. I am one of you, I belong to you all; I experience deeply every detail of our cause, the cause of all Arabs.

Next to my faith in God Almighty, I have faith in you and in your ability to direct the course to its proper path.

Brothers and sisters, after two long attempts I and the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan hereby announce that we are unable to continue to coordinate politically with the PLO leadership until such time as their world becomes their bond, characterized by commitment, credibility and constancy. On our part, we know of no other way of fostering confidence than by truthfulness or of strengthening it than by clarity. For confidence is paramount in constructive cooperation.

As for you, brothers and sisters, who stand tall under occupation, who remain steadfast in your ancestral homeland, who are the keepers of Al-Aqsa, the site of the Prophet's ascension, who are the defenders of Jerusalem and the Holy Places, living symbols of the long history of the land of prophets and holy men, and preservers of an identity which — God willing — will never be blurred or erased, to you, our Palestinian brethren in the occupied territories, I send my greetings, love, and appreciation. To you I renew my pledge that here in Jordan we will remain as we have been: brothers committed to your cause and supporters in all you have to face. We will continue to support you, within our capabilities, with every available means. We look forward to the day when you will be a free people on your own soil, secure and confident of your present and future, safe in your homes, and proud of the fruits of your struggle and steadfastness.

God be my witness, I have conveyed the message.

God be my witness, I have conveyed the message.

God be my witness, I have conveyed the message.

From the Almighty we draw support. Peace be with you and God's mercy and blessings.

LE MONDE Interviews President Al-Jumayyil

PM141641 Paris LE MONDE in French 14 Feb 86 pp 1,6

[Interview with Lebanese President 'Amin al-Jumayyil by Francoise Chipaux — date and place not given]

[Text] [Chipaux] What are the main reasons for your refusal to accept the Damascus agreement as it stands?

[Al-Jumayyil] My position on the Damascus agreement cannot be interpreted as a rejection. The agreement is certainly a serious step in the direction of stabilization. It is a valid starting point for achieving agreement among the Lebanese. It was negotiated among the three warring paramilitary forces, and without an agreement between the warring factions it is difficult to achieve peace. I gave my backing to these negotiations from the start, in that it had been agreed that they should lead to a national congress whose results would be ratified by the democratic institutions, in other words the executive and legislative authorities. It was a sound procedure. The exercise of power is constitutional in Lebanon. Any change in this nature does not depend on the president of the Republic alone. It must be debated in the Cabinet and in parliament. This is a fundamental point.

In addition, parties other than the signatories, both armed and civilian, exist in the country. My duty as president is to safeguard the right of all these factions, especially when it comes to determining the country's future. A distinction must be drawn between security and peace. We in Lebanon tend to confuse these two notions. However, the real peace we are seeking can only be based on a freely expressed national awareness. In the absence of that you have a security agreement among militias that lay down their arms for a time only to take them up again a little later, as we have unfortunately seen in the past.

It is absolutely vital to end the state of war in the near future. It is imperative.

I admit that it is necessary to make radical changes in the old order to adapt our political system to the current situation. I said that in my investiture speech. Nothing is sacred in this connection. Our Constitution dates from 1926, and we need the broadest consensus to draw up a new one.

Of course, we must also take account of past discrepancies in some crises with Israel, integrate Lebanon more fully into its Arab context, and, more simply, review our relations with Syria. It is our immediate neighbor. We had traditional historical relations necessitated by geographical considerations, among others. It is our only way out toward the hinterland. It is, therefore, vital to maintain preferential and fraternal relations with Damascus.

The tripartite agreement is broadly consistent with this principle, but the text of the agreement requires improvements, particularly on three points: the adaption of the political system to the Lebanese social structure; the proposed system of exercising power; and Lebanon's relations with surrounding countries. I discussed these points with President al-Asad at the 11th summit. I suggested to him that the signatories should take account of these observations to make the agreement more realistic. If they agreed, the modified text would be submitted to parliament; if not, the agreement should be submitted to parliament to enable the deputies and representatives of the people to give their viewpoint. I therefore used that channel.

No to a "Headless" State

[Chipaux] Can you clarify your observations on these three points?

[Al-Jumayyil] The proposed system aims to reduce political confessionalism. This is a praiseworthy aim in itself. But it cannot be attained by ignoring the situation in the region and in Lebanon. We sometimes forget the realities of the Lebanese system — the pluralism that has long been a source of wealth and has given Lebanon its specific character. At the same time it is one of our weaknesses, but we must protect this special character and reexamine harmony within pluralism.

The fundamentalism that is spreading throughout the Near East has been ignored. Talking of abolishing confessionalism without curbing this "hegemonism" and "extremism" is likely to exacerbate fears and distrust in the various factions rather than allaying these feelings. We should view this abolition following the example of other pluralist countries that have succeeded in encouraging tolerance without threatening specific characteristics.

In the political sphere the proposed system of exercising power consists in entrusting the duties of president of the Republic and head of government to a six-man collegiate leadership with each member having the right of veto. You can imagine the chaos we are going to cause in the country. Disregarding our institutions means suspending our national sovereignty. This is very serious. Surely a sufficiencly strong state that would put an end to anarchy is the precondition for the peace we are seeking? If we do not have this, Lebanon will not only be a danger to itself but will continue to be a danger to others, as Mr Kauffmann, Mr Seurat, Mr Carton, and Mr Fontaine [French nationals kidnapped in Lebanon] have learned to their cost. Surely this leaderless state is the ideal way of perpetuating chaos and establishing the partition of countries [as published?

Finally, with regard to bilateral relations between Lebanon and Syria, it would have been perfectly natural for them to be discussed at government level. Ours are two independent and sovereign states. In France, for instance, it would be frowned upon for the PCF to discuss bilateral Franco-Soviet relations with the USSR. I have always advocated the establishment of very close and preferential relations with Syria, even when it was very dangerous, because I was convinced that that was in our two countries' interests. But these ties can only be developed harmoniously in the framework of complete sovereignty, mutual respect, and reciprocal independence. Instead of a sound and natural development of these ties, an attempt was made to establish a hastily drawn-up principle of very broad complementarity extended to political, military, economic, cultural, and educational relations. Even oppositionists have said that this aspect of the agreement ran counter to national sovereignty.

With regard to these three points, the president's responsibility is to protect the foundations of our existence, to ensure the smooth running of our institutions, and to ensure that our foreign relations are based on national sovereignty and independence.

[Chipaux] On what terms did you leave President Al-Asad?

[Al-Jumayyil] In a friendly and very fraternal atmosphere, which was again displayed during my last telephone conversation.

[Chipaux] What is your verdict on the events of 15 January, which led to the ouster of Elie Hubayqah?

[Al-Jumayyil] These events did not add anything new, since the joint signatories of the agreement had already decided not to accept my proposals. My position certainly disappointed the signatories, but I too am disappointed. I would have like dialogue to be established at national level and arguments to be put forward by the various sides in order to find a consensus.

"A Damaged Country"

[Chipaux] A section of Lebanese and Syrian opinion saw Mr Hubayqah's fall as a plot against the agreement by you and the Lebanese Forces (Christian militia). What do you think of that?

[Al-Jumayyil] These are events that took place between the militia and within the Lebanese Forces themselves. I have always kept the presidency out of party matters and hence more particularly out of the militias.

[Chipaux] What do you advocate for breaking the present deadlock?

[Al-Jumayyil] Lebanon has been in a blind alley for 11 years. When I was elected, I knew where I stood. Lebanon is divided, and nothing much is left of the conventional elements of a healthy state. People think it is a mass of stirred-up hatred. But ours is also a destablized and damaged country... and one which is at war but which, despite everything, is still a democracy. This democracy can be revived and developed as long as some trace of legality remains. That is what I am fighting for.

[Chipaux] Is it still possible to talk of the functioning of the institutions when the prime minister and speaker of the house are boycotting you?

[Al-Jumayyil] This is not the first time we have experienced this kind of situation. We have already had serious ministerial crises and similar splits. But we have no alternative but to reach agreement. And I am trying to restore political dialogue. Even on the basis of the tripartite agreement.

There are a great many direct or indirect contacts between Lebanese parties and factions to try to improve the text of the Damascus agreement so that it is a real step toward peace and not a transitory phase.

In 1969 we accepted a rapid compromise by signing the Cairo agreements — a compromise that organized the Palestinian presence in Lebanon. The situation was grave. We said: "Let's accept this agreement. We shall see!" and what we saw was a war that has lasted for 11 years. We do not want to repeat this.

Let us pick out the seeds of peace that exist in the tripartite agreement. Let us help them to grow and not waste the available opportunities for peace by hurrying things.

No Question of Resignation

[Chipaux] How do you view the opposition campaign to secure your resignation?

[Al-Jumayyil] I am a constitutionally elected president. All nations are made up of one people, one land, and institutions. The people are divided, the land is divided, and the institutions are mainly paralyzed. At the head of the institutions the presidency of the Republic remains active. Resignation in such a situation would lead to a final deadlock in the institutions. When your house is not heated in winter and you are cold, you do not destroy the whole house to turn it into firewood. In the present situation the president of the Republic is the roof of this house. This is not the result of exceptional abilities or even personal ambition — it is quite simply that an elected president must continue to keep democracy alive and in reserve if he wants to keep his self-respect. I would like the Lebanese people to understand this and I would like Lebanon's friends to realize the sense of this struggle and help us to break this deadlock.

[Chipaux] Are you not afraid that the present situation might encourage a new explosion?

[Al-Jumayyil] Things could in fact deteriorate and the situation could get out of control. However, uncertainties should not discourage us and prompt us to accept just any peace agreement. Peace at gunpoint is not a lasting peace but a temporary submission. only a consensus — and I am working for this and want to keep up the chance of it — can end the state of war.

[Chipaux] What do you think of the situation in the "Christian camp" today?

[Al-Jumayyil] The Christians have not always supported me nor have the Muslims always opposed me. In the present situation, a clear majority of the Christian camp are publicly expressing their support for the president of the Republic. Unfortunately, ours is a country at war, in which it is not always possible to express your opinion. But I know that the Muslims are just as concerned as the Christians about democracy and national sovereignty. A president can be Christian but not on the Christians' side. He must ensure that the national interest prevails.

[Chipaux] You recently condemned Israel's annexation of a section of Lebanese territory. What can you do to try to settle the situation in southern Lebanon?

[Al-Jumayyil] The war started in the south, and I think that peace could be brought about by solving the problem of the south. Lebanon is not a big country, and one-third of its territory is still either occupied or being destabilized by Israel. This is a major concern of my policy. This is particularly so because the south is fairly representative of the Lebanese population: You find

Christians, Sunnis, Shi'ites, and Druzes there. Unless the south is pacified intercommunal conflicts could break out and jeopardize all the prospects for peace for which we are working.

It is unfortunate that the south was not dealt with in a substantial and detailed way in the tripartite agreement.

We are very proud of national resistance to the Israeli occupier. But it cannot solve the problem. Internal unity is required to mobilize Arab support and obtain international commitment to support us. We have reason to fear the annexation of part of our territory, as happened on the Golan Heights and on the West Bank. We must also watch out for segregation practiced by Israel to divide the population.

[Chipaux] Will Lebanon request an extension of the mandate of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon on 17 April?

[Al-Jumayyil] The withdrawal of that force would make all kinds of adventures possible.

"The People Are Bewildered"

[Chipaux] The economic crisis and the abrupt fall in the Lebanese pound have hit the Lebanese people hard. Do you think this fall is part of the many kinds of pressure exerted on Lebanon?

[Al-Jumayyil] This latest crisis was the straw that broke the camel's back. War cannot be waged in opulence. After 10 years the Lebanese people have been bled dry and their reserves are exhausted. In addition to the war there is a regional economic crisis and there are fluctuations in the dollar. But we are now responding.

I have formed an economic crisis committee, which is a standing committee and has prompted the introduction of an austerity policy and an injection of funds to promote investment in production. Some 3 billion Lebanese pounds have been allocated to an industrial recovery planm. I have confidence in Lebanon's economic future. And above all in the spirit of invention and enterprise of Lebanese people not to mention their tenacity.

[Chipaux] Are you not afraid that the price of your refusal might be too high, since the Lebanese people want peace more than anything?

[Al-Jumayyil] If you respect democracy, want to involve the largest number of parties in the peace process, and insist on the role of the institutions, are you rejecting or seeking peace?

Do the majority of Lebanese want to build security purely on a balance of forces, rather than institutionalizing an agreement and involving the majority of the country's vital forces in it? The essential thing is not to arrive at a mere security agreement but to set in motion a real peace process.

Does this agreement really stem from national awareness? I am not the only one to doubt this.

[Chipaux] Is there now one or are there several national consciences?

[Al-Jumayyil] The fact that I am still in office is not the result of a miracle. I am convinced that deep down every Lebanese is still conscious of belonging to his country. Peace in Lebanon should be achieved with Syria. But it must not be achieved by Syria. It must be achieved with Syria's help but through dialogue among the Lebanese themselves.

[Chipaux] What is the Lebanese president's state of mind today?

[Al-Jumayyil] My faith in this country and its values, in its people and its traditions, the awareness that I am fulfilling a task of Lebanese and human dimensions help me to overcome all problems. After 10 years of war the Lebanese people are bewildered, and I understand that. Foreign interference, the temptations of some and the ambitions of others, and the attacks on their sovereignty are the causes of their disarray. Hope rests with the Lebanese who are aware of their responsibilities, who realize that there can be no salvation for their country outside the secular democratic traditions that have always united them. This Lebanese unity is vital to Lebanon's survival and to the region's stability.

Past President Franjiyah Urges Syrian Intervention

PM190957 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic
15-21 Feb 86 pp 8-9

[Interview with former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah by Jamil Ni'mah in Zgharta — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Ni'mah] Is your position on the basic articles of the tripartite agreement, especially on the issues of the president's powers, on tripartite participation based on equal sharing of power, and on the future abolition of political sectarianism still unchaged?

[Franjiyah] My position is still the same. What concerns every Lebanese now is to sleep assured that there will be a tomorrow. When the fighting stops, the Lebanese will go to sleep reassured. As for the political issues, the politicians are the ones to decide whether the president is entitled or not entitled to vote, keeping in mind that so far he has not had a vote in the cabinet. It is up to the ministers and the prime minister to express opinions and draw conclusions. Part of the agreement is acceptable. As for the other part, it is better if it is delayed until the fighting is ended. Any agreement reached today will be criticized in the future as an agreement dictated to one of the two factions. For an agreement to be good, there has to be dialogue among the parties concerned. Out of this dialogue, what is temporarily essential is adopted and then time will tell whether what is not agreed to through dialogue is right or wrong.

[Ni'mah] Do you intend to follow the course of positive opposition, which relies on constitutional rules, now that you have received from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad assurances regarding your opposition to the political articles included in the agreement?

[Franjiyah] President Hafiz al-Asad is more concerned with the Lebanese interest than any Lebanese official is. I can declare this to the entire world. But President al-Asad does not wish to impose his will on the lebanese. If we had a proper legitimate government that is concerned with its people and its country, then it would ask President al-Asad to do what it wants.

[Ni'mah] Now that the cards in the eastern area have been reshuffled and Elie Hubayqah has left Lebanon, do you think that the agreement has any chance of being implemented and achieving its objectives?

[Franjiyah] This is something that does not concern me. What concerns me is that this agreement should reach, God willing, the Chamber of Deputies. It will select what is good for Lebanon and approve it, and reject what is not good for it.

[Ni'mah] Do you think that recent developments in the eastern zone will lead to the renewed eruption of war on the contact lines?

[Franjiyah] This is what the future will determine.

[Ni'mah] How do you view the future of the Christians in Lebanon and what is required of their leaders to avert what is said about "numerous dangers" engulfing them?

[Franjiyah] (After a short pause) The Christians have lived in Lebanon since Christ. Throughout the past 2000 years, they have lived in fraternity with whoever has been here. They have never been influenced by any circumstance, except when there has been a third party manipulating one of the two sides, the Christians or the non-Christians.

[Ni'mah] Do you still favor floating the idea of conveing the national conference in Damascus?

[Franjiyah] Certainly, because a national conference is for settling a dispute between two factions. There will, of course, be an umpire. There can be no umpire other than Damascus.

[Ni'mah] So Damascus is the only umpire for the Lebanese crisis?

[Franjiyah] This is my opinion.

[Ni'mah] Do you think that Israel was behind what happened in the eastern zone?

[Franjiyah] Israel is behind all that has happened in Lebanon. As we know, Israel plans for hundreds of years to come. Israel's plan at present is to evict the Lebanese. I say this because the ill-mentioned Henry Kissinger personally offered to help me emigrate. When the Lebanese emigrate, the land will become unpopulated and the Palestinian will be told: You have lost your homeland in Palestine, here, take Lebanon for a homeland. Israel will thus rid itself of the Palestinian problem, will seize all of Palestine, and end the Palestinian problem and the problem of the Holy Land.

[Ni'mah] It is the belief of the United States and Israel that the Palestinian people are a separete issue. Will not the Lebanese people become a similar issue if they are compelled to emigrate from their homeland?

[Franjiyah] In the U.S. view, the Lebanese are not afraid of emigration. Most Lebanese are immigrants. Every Lebanese, with the exception of a very small minority, has brothers or relatives abroad to turn to, learning their country's language and working as the first immigrant did. The Lebanese clings to this land more than anything else in the world. But when he feels that danger threatens his children, he temporarily sacrifices his land to protect his children. We have proven strongly that we cling to our land. There is no doubt that we have sacrificed greatly to safeguard this dear land.

[Ni'mah] One of the ideas proposed in Damascus is to boycott the regime officially, politically, and even administratively as a first step in the response to foiling the agreement.

[Franjiyah] Are these ideas proposed by Damascus or by a Lebanese living in Damascus? The proposal is made by a Lebanese living in Damascus. There is no doubt in my mind that the regime is being boycotted. We hear from neither the press nor the other media that so and so or such and such visited the president, keeping in mind that before this president, B'abda was the place visited most by the Lebanese. Today, without demand and without media, the regime is boycotted at the Lebanese level. This is due to the course this regime has followed, namely the course of a single family and single party. Lebanon is not accustomed to this kind of regime. Lebanon is a democratic country and every Lebanese is entitled to the same rights as everybody else. Regrettably, the Lebanese are nowadays divided into various categories, some with no rights and some whose rights are taken away.

[Ni'mah] Do you still cling to the National Salvation Front Charter?

[Franjiyah] This is my personal conviction and I have expressed it to the Lebanese people. I will, of course, continue to cling to this charter until somebody comes along and convinces me that this or that provision is unfit. When the charter was prepared, I presented it to the Lebanese people so that everybody could have his say. In my latest document, I have asked the brother Muslims to draft their own document so that we may hold a dialogue on its basis.

[Ni'mah] Where will former President Franjiyah stand should Syria decide on a military solution and actually embark on a military operation against the eastern areas to topple the regime?

[Franjiyah] (Without hestiation) I wish President al-Asad would take such a position, not only to end the fighting in the eastern area but also to collect weapons in Lebanon, especially the heavy weapons. Should such an initiative be made, everything will be stopped.

[Ni'mah] A final question: What is your personal initiative to overcome the crisis experienced by the country?

[Franjiyah] The only initiative is to put an end to Israel's lackeys. Regrettably, many big shots, and very big shots at that, are nowadays lackeys of Israel and they pay the price for the positions they have attained due to Israel.

Birri Addresses Marchers on S. Lebanon Fighting

NC191307 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Addressing a student demonstration that traversed the capital and stopped in front of his house today, Minister Nabih Birri stated: We said yesterday that we challenge Israel to remain in the south. We made this challenge because we know well that you lion cubs, students, and masses will never abandon your people in the south.

Minister Birri continued: They have brandished shotguns, clubs, and sticks in defense of the southern soil and of our rights. Israel should understand that our lion cubs will fight for every atom of our soil. Israel's real objective behind this invasion — to establish security arrangements — is rejected, rejected, rejected.

Minister Birri added: On your behalf, I denounce such security arrangements. Israel, despite the U.S. support, will fail to attain this objective.

Concluding his address, Minister Birri said: We demand an unconditional Israeli withdrawal. The resistance and your efforts will cause this withdrawal.

Birri Comments on Aims of Israeli Attack in South

NC191502 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Nabih Birri said in a statement today that the vicious attack by the Israeli occupation forces in the south has three aims: To split the resistance and the people, to impose pressure for previously rejected Israeli security arrangements, and to support an internal Lebanese trend that has emerged from the rejection of the tripartite agreement.

Nabih Birri added: The struggle of our people in the south will foil these three aims. He noted that there is no Arab criticism of, or response of any kind to, the events in the south. However, throughout the Middle East, Arabs comment on many other events.

Birri said that Israeli helicopters today carried out a landing operation in the area adjacent to Srifa township. Fierce battles raged in the Haris township, which the occupation forces had isolated. They subjected Haris citizens to terrorist violence, the details of which are not yet known. In the Bra'shit township, a number of houses were demolished.

Replying to a question, Birri asserted: We reiterate that the Security Council has become merely a forum for propoganda. Due to the misuse of the veto, we do not attach importance to the council, particularly its discussions of terrorism. However, we would like to praise the stand of the UN secretary general, who criticized Israel for establishing the security zone.

Spanish Ambassador, Birri Hold News Conference

NC191939 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Pedro Manuel de Aristegui, the Spanish ambassador to Lebanon, held a news conference at his residence in Al-Hadath in Beirut today. Pedro Sanchez, Gaspar 'Abduh, and As'ad 'Abduh, the three Spanish Embassy employees released this morning after having been kidnapped approximately 1 month ago, were present at the conference. (Raphael Fasteur), Spanish under secretary for interior, and (Juan Manuel Monima), an embassy counsellor, were also in attendance.

The Spanish ambassador told journalists that the three men had been released without any concessions being made by Spanish authorities to the abductors' demands that Shi'ite prisoners being held in Spain be freed. The Spanish ambassador said that the matter of the Shi'ites' release is in the hands of the law. Arrangements have been made, the ambassador added, to prevent any future incidents of abduction. At this point, the ambassador affirmed his strong denouncement of kidnapping in general. The Spanish ambassador also denied any knowledge of the party responsible for this abduction.

Minister Nabih Birri, who had played a mediating role in the release of the three embassy officials and who had actually delivered them to the Spanish ambssador, was asked about the fate of his former proposal that the Lebanese prisoners be transferred from Spain to Beirut. He replied: It is all up to Spanish justice. Birri elaborated by explaining that the Spanish delegation had made it clear that the case is still being heard in court and that the officials involved understand the circumstances of the situation. The final decision will be made by the competent Spanish courts, Birri concluded.

Further on Islamic Resistance, Captured Israelis

Execution Threat Reiterated

NC191911 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] The Islamic Resistance reiterated a short while ago that it will carry out the promise it made yesterday to execute one of the two Israeli intelligence officers captured last Monday at 2100 [1900 GMT] tonight, that is to say now, if the Israeli occupation forces do not withdraw from the south.

One Israeli Reported Executed

NC192100 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
2040 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] In a telephone call received by the Beirut office of the Abu Dhabi paper *AL-ITTIHAD*, Abu Muhammad, a spokesman for the Islamic Resistance, announced the execution of one of the two Israeli soldiers it had been holding. The statement said: In the name of God, the omnipotent. Fight them, and God will punish them at your hands, cover them with shame, help you (to victory) over them, heal the breasts of believers [Koranic verse].

In honoring the promise that we made earlier to our kinsfolk and our nation, the Islamic Resistance executed one of the two Israeli hostages at exactly 2100 tonight.

The statement adds: The Islamic Resistance announces that it will continue to proceed with its operations of struggle against the Zionist invaders until they are defeated and retreat from all the occupied territories of the Muslims.

The Islamic Resistance will issue another statement about the execution. Victory to the Islamic Resistance until Israel is wiped out of existence. Peace be with you.

Execution Claim Disavowed

NC192135 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Excerpts] According to reports available to the Voice of Lebanon, groups of gunmen are touring the southern suburb with loudspeakers, announcing that the martyr Raghib Harb group of the Islamic Resistance executed one of the two captured Israeli intelligence officers at 2100 today. Later on tonight, however, an anonymous caller claiming to represent Hizballah telephoned the Voice of Lebanon and said that Hizballah had not executed either of the two Israeli prisoners.

Amal Security Report Updates Fighting in South

NC191856 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Excerpts] According to a security source from the Amal Movement, resistance fighters destroyed two vehicles belonging to the enemy during a clash in Haris today. The enemy, forced to withdraw from the town, then used Merkava tanks to shell it. The occupation forces also entered Tibnin, where they gathered the inhabitants at the government hospital, subjected them to a long interrogation, and prevented them from moving freely through the town.

The enemy tried to land paratroopers near the towns of (Frisa) and Frun at 1000 this morning. However, fierce battles erupted between these forces and National Resistance men.

Enemy forces surrounded Haddathah at noon. Tanks and infantry groups were seen on the Qa'qa'iyat al-Jsir line and in the Al-Bayyadah area.

Enemy gunboats encountered stiff resistance when they attempted to approach the shore near Tyre. They were forced to withdraw after firing a shell that landed in the Al-Khara'ib area.

In another development, the National Resistance Front has issued a statement saying that the Al-Aqsa Liberation Forces have intercepted an enemy military convoy that was trying to advance from Shihin to [word indistinct]. During the 30-minute clash between these forces and personnel from the convoy, rockets and machineguns were used and two M-113 armored personnel carriers were destroyed.

The enemy was able to recover the bodies of three Israelis who had fallen in Haris tonight.

When an Israeli vehicle exploded in Haris at 1100 this morning, the enemy forces became hysterical and opened fire randomly. Mahmud Salim Isma'il and Wadi' Mustafa Dhahir were killed by this fire.

Reportage on Reaction to King Husayn's Speech

Peres Reacts 'Favorably'

TA200945 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0940 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has reacted favorably to the speech delivered by Jordanian King Husayn. Mr Peres said the Jordanian king has not slammed shut the door, and the future now depends on the residents of the territories. Peres said he does not know whether chances for the continuation of the peace process have increased, but the horizon has cleared. There are considerable and quite interesting possibilities for the continuation of the peace process. Mr Peres noted that Husayn told the residents of the territories what we have been trying to tell them: The PLO is not leading toward a solution; it has no solution, and it remains an obstacle on the path to peace.

Further Details

TA201117 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres says he is not surprised at King Husayn's divorcing himself from the PLO. He said alternatives must be found in order to continue the peace process. Prime Minister Peres talked to reporter Tony Gadot:

[Begin Peres recording] I am not surprised. From the very beginning I didn't believe that something good can come out with the negotiations with the PLO. The PLO is not negotiating opportunity but assembling blocks on the road to peace, and from that point of view I think that the king was very realistic in assessing the position of the PLO, and I think by moving aside the PLO opportunity, we will have to think now about alternatives which I do believe exist. I don't know what is the next step; I don't know what is the direction that remains the direction of peace. [end recording]

Rabin Interview

TA192113 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1940 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on "Moqed" program, with Nisim Mish'al, moderator, and correspondents Eli Nisan and Moshe Shlonsky — live in studio]

[Text] **[Mish'al]** Good evening. The Moqed program's guest is Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The kidnapping of the two soldiers in Lebanon, the ultimatum the kidnappers have presented, unilateral autonomy, relations between the Likud and the Alignment, and the rotation question, will be discussed this evening with our guest Yitzhaq Rabin. Here with me in the studio are Eli Nisan and Moshe Shlonsky. Good evening, Mr Defense Minister.

[Rabin] Good evening.

[Mish'al] We will begin with Husayn's speech. We heard it together in the studio. In fact, we heard Husayn give 'Arafat a divorce. I would like to ask you for an initial reaction to the speech.

[Rabin] This really is an initial reaction. The impression is that he has made an historic, pointed accounting with the PLO as a factor that has foiled and is foiling him in his attempts to further a political process leading to a solution to the dispute between Jordan, the Palestinians, and Israel. The second thing is the emotional appeal to the inhabitants of the territories and the Arab people as a whole to do something. Accordingly, if the king does not intend to try to pressure 'Arafat to change his position and if the inhabitants of the territories really do understand that this is the moment of truth and, for the first time, take an initiative to take their future into their own hands and join Husayn, it may be that this is an opening in a new direction and a chance for a dialogue. What do I mean? Husayn said: I will not go alone, on my own initiative. On the other hand, the appeal to the inhabitants of the territories was different compared with all of Husayn's past speeches. In my opinion, this is an historic opportunity, and, as defense minister, I call on the leaders of the inhabitants of the territories to rid themselves of the PLO, rid themselves of all kinds of external elements, rise up on their own feet with their own right to care for the 1.25 million Palestinians living in the territories, and to join Husayn in a negotiating process with Israel and without the PLO.

[Mish'al] Mr Rabin, if I were to sum up your opening remarks in one sentence, it would be that there is a new opening for political negotiations; we will return to Husayn's speech later on. I would like to begin to talk about the matter of the kidnapped soldiers. The ultimatum presented by the Hizballah members expired about 40 minutes ago. Do you have any updated information?

[Rabin] No. I do not at this moment have anything to add to the very fact of the ultimatum's existence and that at about 2045 it was mentioned by Lebanese television.

[Mish'al] And they repeated the ultimatum?

[Rabin] They did indeed.

[Nisan] Is there actually any expectation that we will see this happen? This is what I understand, because there is no other information. Or can we, on the basis of past experience, evaluate whether the Hizballah is capable of carrying out its threats in this case? What is the real weight of this ultimatum?

[Rabin] The Hizballah organization is the most murderous and cruel of the terrorist organizations. I would just like to recall that the organization committed the kamikaze action on the U.S. Marines headquarters in Lebanon, in which hundreds were killed. It committed the attack against our camp in Tyre. All of them were kamikaze attacks. There was the attack against the U.S. Embassy. In those four [number as heard] attacks, more tham 500 were killed. It has committed acts of murder in the most cruel way and I admit that I am filled with concern about the ultimatum. In my view, if our prisoners really are being held by them, I would treat that ultimatum with gravity and concern.

[Shlonsky] The Russians, when four of their diplomats were kidnapped in Beirut, negotiated with one of the Hizballah members and got their four diplomats released immediately afterward. Is Israel also thinking of such a possibility?

[Rabin] I think you are not being quite precise. The Soviets appealed to the Syrians to work in Tripoli to achieve the goals of the organization that kidnapped the Soviet diplomats, and that was a Sunni organization, a fundamentalist one, which may have worked in cooperation with the Hizballah. Actually, Soviet pressure was applied to Syria to accede to some of the demands made by Shaykh — I do not remember his name — who leads the Sunni sect which is opposed by the 'Alawites, with Syrian support, and whom they fought in Tripoli.

[Shlonsky] Mr Rabin, you mentioned the Syrians. Do they have any connection with this kidnapping?
[Rabin] There may be some sort of indirect connection. The Hizballah is an element that works independently. It is true that the Syrians control the Lebanese Al-Biqa', the center, the Hizballah snake's head is in Ba'labakk, but I would not say that they dictate to the Hizballah. However, they might have an influence. The main influence, though, lies in Iran's hands, not in Syria's.

[Nisan] Do we know with certainty that the soldiers are in southern Lebanon? There are so many IDF soldiers in the area. Why are they are going on and on with the search operations?
[Rabin] At this stage, we have no certainty as to where the soldiers are being held, where the Hizballah personnel are holding our prisoners. There is no doubt that they were held by them and they succeeded in transferring the soldier's documents, the tags, their imprisonment documents, to Beirut; these were really shown. To what extent they succeeded in transferring the prisoners themselves to outside the area closed by us is something we have no certainty about and so we will continue with the search until either it is established that they are somewhere else, or until we conclude that the search will not discover their whereabouts.

[Nisan] Mr Rabin, I understand that, for the moment, there is actually no certainty either that any action can be taken against the Hizballah as part of the current IDF deployment. Do we, in fact, face a situation in which there will be a war between an elephant and a gnat? What is the purpose of this operation?
[Rabin] It is perhaps worthwhile, with all the pain and sorrow and concern about the kidnapping of the two soldiers, for us to see the comprehensive picture. In practice, the main problem, our objective in our policy in Lebanon -- in which terrorism was not eliminated during 3 years of war -- is to safeguard the Galilee, our northern border, our settlements and their inhabitants. The security zone and our activity there is necessary. We would not have been carrying out this large-scale action except as an expression of the IDF's responsibility for the fate of its soldiers, soldiers who have carried out a certain task in the security zone. The responsibility and concern for IDF soldiers who are sent on a mission can take various forms, sometimes the willingness to conduct negotiations when they are captured, but certainly to do everything reasonable to find them before they are taken somewhere inaccessible. I would like to remind us all that ever since the State of Israel was established we have not succeeded in carrying out an operation to release prisoners or hostages when they were held in an Arab country. There was one successful operation to release hostages outside Israeli territory, that was the rescue of the hostages in Entebbe, the Yonatan Campaign. There have been strikes against perpetrators of attacks against us; they are happening now, and there will be strikes in the future. We will not ignore those who perpetrated this abominable operation, this murderous operation, and I am not certain that their intention was simply to kidnap. The fire power that was directed at the car leaves no doubt that if they had succeeded, they [the soldiers] would have been killed. It may be that because they were not killed, they were captured.

[Nisan] That is to say that from the very beginning, in fact, the goal was not to kidnap, but to hit.
[Rabin] According to the fire power, the number of hits on the car, it was, first of all, an operation to kill, and, if possible, to kidnap.

[Shlonsky] Following this event, do you not think that the IDF presence in the security strip is actually a trap? On one hand, we do not want too great a presence; on the other hand, if we are too few, we are then liable to be attacked.
[Rabin] Our main objective was and remains security for the Galilee by using the security strip in its present form. If this act of kidnapping had not been carried out or if, heaven forbid, heavier fire is directed against our settlements than is currently the case, we will carry out actions which go beyond the security zone. Therefore, this action is aimed at demonstrating responsibility for the fate of the soldiers. It is not aimed at guaranteeing the Galilee's safety.

[Mish'al] Mr Rabin, this evening we heard that the Shi'ites have announced a general mobilization. Do you not think that our current presence in southern Lebanon could lead to a sharpening, to a deterioration, a renewal of hostilities with the Shi'ites?
[Rabin] Look, we have announced, and this really is our intention and it is also our intention today, that after the searches are completed we will return to our activity as it was prior to the kidnapping -- of course, in accordance with changing circumstances. We have explained through various channels, to the inhabitants, and to the main organization, Amal, what our objective is and how we will act after the searches are completed. I hope, I want to believe, that it is in the interests of the Shi'ite residents to coexist peacefully with Israel, with some activity against the security strip. And I hope that the Amal leadership, the leadership of the Shi'ite inhabitants, will really accept these explanations.

[Nisan] Mr Rabin, I understand there is a certain lack of clarity regarding the UNIFIL role in southern Lebanon. According to the description, I understand that there are two UNIFIL positions in roughly the same sector, the same place where the incident occurred. Is there any information that might confirm whether UNIFIL personnel knew or could have known about the kidnapping?
[Rabin] I have reasons to assume that they saw movements by a Hizballah element which may very well have been connected with the execution of the kidnapping. I doubt whether they knew that the action was aimed at a kidnapping. I will add one simple word: UNIFIL has not changed anything with regard to the perpetrators of the action and it is not interfering with us in the search operations.

[Nisan] Does UNIFIL have any purpose?
[Rabin] In my opinion, UNIFIL, from Israel's viewpoint, can go home.
[Mish'al] Goodness me. Has this been said to them?
[Rabin] Many, many times.

[Mish'al] Mr Rabin, we will move on to the matter of the Jews who are in Lebanon. Yesterday a Jew was again murdered, another Jew, one of the leaders of the Jewish community there, and the question is what can Israel do to stop these murders?
[Rabin] We have no possibility of preventing the terrorist organizations of the various types, with Hizballah at their head, from capturing Jews in Beirut. We are not there. We can see only one thing, to speak and work to the best of our abilities, so that they know that they will not go scot-free after such acts; and more than that cannot be done.

[Mish'al] Are we trying to set up some sort of negotiations, establish some sort of contact with the kidnappers of those Jews?
[Rabin] They are not trying to establish contact with us; we cannot establish a contact with them.

[Shlonsky] From time to time they present an ultimatum.
[Rabin] They have presented several ultimatums and I want to refer to the ultimatum concerning our two kidnapped soldiers, too, as well as the Jews in Beirut. There has been a pointed argument in Israel in cases involving negotiations over the release or return of our prisoners or hostages when this was connected with the release of terrorists, but there has never been an argument over the fact that Israel cannot accept conditions connected with the IDF deployment or its policy. The demands, both by the Hizballah with regard to the two prisoners, the two kidnapees, and with regard to the Jewish kidnapees from Beirut, are not on the level of exchanges of prisoners. They are political demands, military demands, that are connected with the IDF deployment and our security policy. These are issues over which there is no room for negotiations.

[Mish'al] Mr Rabin, I would like to devote the next moments to Husayn's speech with which we opened. Eli, go ahead.
[Nisan] Yes. Mr Rabin, in your reaction to Husayn's speech, in fact you appealed from here, from the studio, to the inhabitants of the territories and suggested to them that they respond to King Husayn's call to take the initiative, in fact, to take their fate into their own hands. The question is, does the current reality in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza enable the Palestinian masses to express their political desires? Is there any such possibility?
[Rabin] The problem in the Arab world is not the masses.

[Nisan] No, in the territories....

[Rabin, interrupting] The problem in the territories is whether five, seven, eight leaders will arise who will recognize the fact that to date the PLO has undermined all the chances of reaching any solution. Will any such people arise and say: We are taking upon ourselves the leadership of the inhabitants of the territories. We are joining King Husayn. We are prepared, on the basis of the conditions to which King Husayn agreed with the United States, to come to peace negotiations with Israel. They have no other chance and they must begin to understand this. What are they waiting for? A miracle? Can anyone still believe that the PLO will present some sort of solution, after they have heard King Husayn's long speech? A golden opportunity has been given to them here to take their fate into their hands. The question is whether there are such people there, such leaders, such mayors who will get up and say: In the current conditions, in the Arab world, there is no democracy, there are no elections. We are taking our fate into our own hands. We want peace. King Husayn has called to us. Let us go with him to negotiations over peace.

[Shlonsky] And what can Israel do to move toward these elements, to resume the political negotiations?
[Rabin] As I see it, every inhabitant of the territories has the rightto be a partner in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation which is to conduct negotiations over peace with Israel; he has the right to tell them: Friends, take matters into your own hands; form a team, be partners with Jordan, be the Palestinian component in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

[Nisan] Mr Rabin, do you know any such leaders who could be partners? Personally?
[Rabin] I know people of this sort who will tell you, when you are alone with them, what King Husayn said about the PLO, but they fear for their lives. They fear for their status in the Arab world; now, perhaps, with the exception of Jordan. They are afraid to take this initiative and if King Husayn really does encourage them and we permit them, an opening has been made here. I have no certainty about what will happen.

[Mish'al] One thing more on this issue. If this is so, can you evaluate the reaction of the inhabitants of the territories to Husayn's speech? That is to say, in fact, what you said in conclusion to your remarks is that you do not believe that leaders will arise with the public courage....
[Rabin, interrupting] I did not say that I do not believe. I said I am appealing to them. Whether they arise or not, time will tell. To this day they have been afraid, because they have been living under threats of murder or murder of their relatives by the PLO.

[Shlonsky] Let us go over to the daily relations between Israel and the inhabitants of the territories. Last week, and perhaps not coincidentally, the question of unilateral autonomy came up once again. Why do you actually object to the prime minister's position on this matter?
[Rabin] First of all, I do not know that the prime minister supports the notion of unilateral autonomy. I do not know of anything entitled unilateral autonomy. By definition, autonomy is the result of agreement. The autonomy was first mentioned as part of the Camp David accords and the partners to an agreement on the implementation of the autonomy were Israel, Egypt, and the inhabitants of the territories, while Jordan was invited to join. There can be no autonomy, at least not a unanimously accepted one, between us and the inhabitants of the territories. Therefore, there is no such thing as unilateral autonomy. There may be a unilateral pullout but I am vehemently opposed to a unilateral pullout of the IDF from part of the territories, and certainly to a reduction in the number of troops currently stationed in the large population centers. I also think that the fact that King Husayn appealed to the inhabitants of the territories justifies Israel's refraining from taking a rash step. Those who want to ultimately arrive at negotiations must show that they are able to endure and are able to run affairs in the territories, in addition to their ability to go on keeping a military presence there. How to endure for a long period of time, that is another question altogether. However, I believe that any statement which reflects impatience, which shows that we are standing on our toes and that we can no longer endure, undermines the chances of ever arriving at negotiations.

[Nisan] Mr Rabin, on several occasions Israel promised the Americans and the Egyptians to see to improving the quality of life in the territories. As I see it, the reference was not to landscape designing but to the overall quality of life. This certainly fits in with your own appeals to the inhabitants of the territories to take their fate into their own hands. Has anything significant been done in the period you have been serving as defense minister to improve the quality of life in the territories?
[Rabin] When talking about quality of life in the territories one should initially define this term. Basically, on the assumption that most inhabitants of the territories are not involved in terrorism, the purpose is to allow them to run their own daily lives. There is no intention to change the legal basis or to abolish the apparatus of the Military Government and the Civilian Administration. The first thing would be to have Arab mayors run Arab towns. I have no ideological feelings about having an Israeli officer serve as mayor of an Arab town. The first Arab mayor was appointed in Nabulus and the purpose is to keep on this track according to possibilities and the security requirements. The purpose is to give them more prestigious administrative tasks within the Civilian Administration in the fields of education, health, and agriculture. The purpose is to give them more freedom in economic and other fields of daily life, help them promote their economy, and give them more liberty in running their own life. I am not referring to anything beyond that.

[Mish'al] In the 6 minutes left until the end of the program I would like to touch upon relations within the government, between the Likud and the Alignment. Perhaps we should start with your own party. Pressure has been mounting within the Labor Party, by senior ministers as well, to disband the national unity government and to go for new elections. What is your position on this matter? Your voice has actually not been heard on this matter.
[Rabin] My point of departure is that there is a coalition agreement and, being a signatory to this agreement both as an individual and as part of a party, I think we should abide by it. At the same time, when fundamental problems are at stake, problems which will have an impact on the direction vital and substantial state issues take, one must take a position and fight for one's belief even if that leads to the disbanding of the government.

[Mish'al] In other words, the agreement should not be kept at all costs.
[Rabin] What I say is: If the majority decides on a vital issue then this decision must be carried out. Whoever refuses to accept this decision and resolves to split, well, that is his own problem. In my opinion, the chief problem at present — unless a breakthrough is made in the political direction regarding negotiations with Jordan and such a notion is unacceptable to the other component of the government — is an economic one. I would like to say that what happened is that the toughest part of curbing inflation and preventing a drop in our foreign currency reserves was actually borne by the Alignment ministers. I think that the cut in the defense budget is unprecedented and entails dangers and risks for Israel....

[Mish'al, interrupting**]** Likud ministers will step forward and say that the labor and welfare minister and others are members of the Likud. So, the distribution is not that bad.

[Rabin] In my opinion, we took harsh measures and we scored achievements. However, when taking such measures one must see to it that the plan succeeds and also that the patient does not die. Therefore, amendments must be made which are called for by the severity of the consequences of the economic plan, particularly in the productive sector and in some basic premises of the social fabric.

[Shlonsky] What you are actually saying is that if the Alignment's position in the argument over economic growth is not accepted then you would be in favor of disbanding the government.
[Rabin] I think we should strive for recovery as a stage in the growth of the productive sector. If agriculture is ruined but the plan succeeds, what sort of a plan would that be? If large productive sectors go bankrupt and are closed down, what sort of a plan would that be?

[Mish'al] Still, why is a connection made between economic growth and the rotation of the premiership? The timing is a little bit too close, the date of the rotation is approaching.
[Rabin] The results of the plan, both positive and negative, are only now emerging. Therefore, I think it is our duty, in view of the fact that Shim'on Peres is the prime minister, to be publicly responsible for the plan, both for its positive and serious results. We should stop for a moment and say: Let us amend things together. I would be glad if we could discuss the proposals for the recovery and growth of the productive sector together, obviating the need for a rift in the unity government.

[Nisan] Mr Rabin, at least in the Labor Party there is another version which holds that the rotation should not be regarded as a mere tactical move. A colleague of yours, Minister Ya'aqov Tzur — who is a member of the Allon camp which you head — proposes that the issue should be put to a democratic vote in the Labor Party. Do you accept this position?
[Rabin] I do not second such a proposal. We signed an agreement and we must show that we abide by it. At the same time, the problem today in the socioeconomic sphere is that the plan was successful but it leads to serious phenomena which, in my opinion, call for an amendment and adjustment of the economic plan so as to avoid the destruction of agriculture and parts of the productive sector. What is the good of not having inflation but not having production either?

[Shlonsky] If the demand of your party colleagues is accepted and the elections are brought forward, would you again consider yourself a candidate for the premiership?
[Rabin] You ask me such hypothetical questions that, believe me, I have not even thought up myself.
[Nisan] It could happen tomorrow.
[Rabin] It will not happen tomorrow. The problem now is a national one: What happens now? How do we go about repairing the damages of the economic plan? Incidentally, I was glad to hear today that the chairman of the Knesset Finance Committee, Knesset Member Avraham Shapiro, said that in the absence of growth the economy will collapse — and he is not a member of the Labor Party.

[Mish'al] We are nearing the end of our program, and here is the last question. You told Moshe Shlonsky that you are not thinking about running for the premiership in the future, so let me ask you a question in your capacity as former prime minister. How do you relate to what has been happening in the latest Cabinet sessions in which, terms such as heaven help us, liar, fat face, maniac, and others were used. Did such things also happen during your tenure?

[Rabin] I am not saying that harsh words were not exchanged in previous Cabinets, and certainly not in the Cabinet in which I served as prime minister. However, I think I cannot recall such a low level, at least not in the Cabinets of which I was a member. I think there are various phenomena, first and foremost in relations between the Fianance Ministry and other ministries, which cannot be tolerated by any Cabinet.

[Mish'al] What is the reason for this? Does this stem from ideological differences or lack of manners?

[Rabin] I can only give you an example. The state budget was presented and the Knesset's Finance and Foreign Affairs and Defense Committees were scheduled to hold a meeting with me and with defense establishment officials about the defense budget. The finance minister informed the chairman of the Finance Committee that he had not approved the defense budget. As far as I know, it is the Cabinet that approves the budget rather than the finance minister. The Knesset approved the budget in its first hearing. Who has ever heard of such a thing, that the chairman of the Finance Committee rather than the finance minister should inform me that I should not hold the meeting and that I should call it off since he had not approved the budget. I do not need the approval of the finance minister for the defense budget which had been approved by the Cabinet.

[Mish'al] Well, the finance minister is not here to comment but I assume that he will find the occasion to counter this argument as well. I thank you for coming to the Moqed studio and I also thank my colleagues, Moshe Shlonsky and Eli Nisan. To the audience at home, a very good evening from Jerusalem.

Foreign Ministry 'Not Surprised'

TA200635 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres may react to Husayn's speech today, in the course of several public appearances he is scheduled to make. So far, the discernable reaction coming from Peres' close circle is characterized by extreme caution and statements that the contacts between Israel and Jordan will continue in the venue of quiet and secret diplomacy, through the Americans. The two main questions asked in Jerusalem are whether Husayn has divorced the PLO or is it only another tactical move, and most importantly, what will be Husayn's conclusions regarding the future of the political process in the region? Will he now turn to direct negotiations with Israel as the representative of the Palestinian cause?

According to political observers, one of the striking things in Husayn's speech was that Husayn appeared as the savior of the Palestinians. The PLO was no longer considered the only factor which represents the Palestinians. Another thing that came out in the speech was complete confirmation of the intensive negotiations held recently between the PLO and the United States through Jordan.

The first clear and direct political reaction came from Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday in television's Moqed interview program. Mr Rabin called on the inhabitants of the territories to join King Husayn for peace negotiations without the PLO. Minister Rabin received the impression that the Jordanian king settled a historical account with the PLO, which has foiled his attempts to advance the political process in the region.

The reaction we managed to extract from the Foreign Ministry was this: We need more time to analyze the speech. However, unofficially, the Foreign Ministry told us: We are not surprised by Husayn's attitude toward the PLO. We knew beforehand that the PLO is not a partner to the political process, because it constitutes an obstacle on the road to peace. Our position was, and still is, that the only way to solve the conflict is through direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan. So much for the Foreign Ministry's reaction.

Husayn, as usual, slapped everybody but, also as usual, did not close the doors to the PLO, the United States, or Israel. At the same time, however, he did not walk through any of these doors.

Further Details

TA201100 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1047 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Following the prime minister's reaction, here is the official Foreign Ministry reaction to Husayn's speech of yesterday: Foreign Ministry spokesman Avi Pazner says Husayn's speech in fact confirms Israel's claim that the PLO is an obstacle to peace, contributes nothing toward peace, and cannot be a partner to the peace process. Israel still believes the only way to attain peace is through direct negotiations on the basis of the Camp David agreements, and we hope that the recent events will bring King Husayn to the same realization.

Circles in the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem told our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel that they know nothing about a written promise given to King Husayn, in which the United States undertakes to invite the PLO to an international peace conference if this organization meets its demands. The sources told our correspondent that if the need arises, Israel will ask for clarifications from the Americans regarding this issue.

Our correspondent also reports that on the basis of an assessment formed by the Foreign Ministry's research bodies, Husayn's speech constitutes a time-out in the contacts between the PLO and Jordan, and must not be seen as an absolute rift between Husayn and 'Arafat.

Bethlehem Mayor, Sanyurah Statements

TA192020 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has said that King Husayn's speech has created a new situation in the Middle East. Interviewed by our correspondent Arye Gus, Frayj said that the Jordanian king's speech had been very dangerous and that he feared that those who would suffer from the inability of the Arabs to take action would be the inhabitants of the territories. The question now, Mr Frayj said, is whether the freeze will continue.

In the opinion of *AL-FAJR*'s editor, Hanna Sanyurah, the speech proves that the contacts between Jordan and the PLO and the United States have reached a deadend and that the political process is frozen. Mr Sanyurah said that King Husayn holds the PLO responsible for the situation but it is the United States that is actually responsible. Sanyurah was slated to be a member of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. He added that new approaches should be found now, such as an international conference without referring to UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

Further Details

TA201143 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Many Palestinian leaders in the territories reject the idea of entering peace negotiations without the PLO, after King Husayn said he would no longer coordinate his positions with Yasir 'Arafat. Jerry Cheslow reports:

[Begin recording] [Cheslow] The Palestinian leaders in the territories believe King Husayn's speech was aimed at them. However, most of the leaders say they are not willing to abandon the PLO for entering negotiations along with the king. The deposed mayor of Hebron, Mustafa al-Natshah, said that no Palestinian leader will accept an alternative to the PLO, and that the PLO demands that the United States recognize Palestinian self-determination were just. This view is shared by Hanna Sanyurah, editor of the East Jerusalem newspaper *AL-FAJR*, who is also a member of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation on Middle East negotiations.

Most of the East Jerusalem newspapers, which represent streams of Palestinian political thinking, reject the idea of seeking a solution without the PLO. The most strident is *AL-MITHAQ*, indentified with the Rejection Front groups. It terms King Husayn's speech last night a slap in the face to Yasir 'Arafat. But the paper says this was inevitable because 'Arafat was not pursuing true Palestinian interests in trying to negotiate.

Among the voices giving qualified support to King Husayn's speech was Bethlehem's Mayor Ilyas Frayj. He said Husayn was making the Palestinians face up to reality.

[Frayj — picked up in midsentence]....in place of no political talks or negotiations or what not. What is the future for the people in the West Bank? He asked these questions very clearly, and now today and tomorrow they will have to think it over, have to talk, to make up their minds between slogans and reality.

[Cheslow] The only leader willing to go on record as supporting the king's speech was Muhammad al-Nasir of the small Palestinian Democratic Movement. He said that if Husayn wants to enter the peace process, he will go along.

[Al-Nasir] The only way to achieve a stable peace is by the negotiations and with representatives of the Palestinian people will participate. We understand this and are willing to join King Husayn in the negotiations.

[Cheslow] Many other Palestinian leaders have refused to comment. One told me off the record: King Husayn is playing a dangerous game, when assassinations are often part of Palestinian politics. [end recording]

Further Reportage on Kidnapping of IDF Soldiers

Dozens Detained; Amal Mobilized

TA191300 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1252 GMT
19 Feb 86

[Text] The UNIFIL headquarters reported a short while ago that the IDF has been carrying out searches for the missing since the morning hours, concentrating primarily in 10 villages outside the security strip. Thus far, dozens of inhabitants who are suspected of having carried out terrorist attacks in the security strip in the past have been detained. Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, reports that Amal soldiers have declared a general mobilization of their forces, and Lebanese soldiers have reported that UNIFIL personnel have been taking action to preempt clashes between Amal soldiers and the IDF soldiers combing the area outside the security strip.

IDF-Amal Clash Preempted

TA191308 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Excerpt] UN officers this morning prevented a violent clash between IDF units and fighters from the Shi'ite Amal militia. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that approximately 250 armed Amal soldiers arrived in the area where the IDF soldiers were carrying out their searches and demanded that they clear the place. When the IDF troops refused, the UN officers intervened and evacuated the Amal men from the area, allowing the searches to continue.

4 'Terrorists' Killed

TA191809 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Four terrorists were killed near the village of Haris in southern Lebanon. The terrorists, who were members of the Hizballah group, were killed this afternoon in a clash with an IDF unit. Our forces did not sustain any casualties. This was announced by the IDF spokesman.

Search To Continue 20 Feb

TA200523 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] The IDF will continue its searches in southern Lebanon for the two missing soldiers, until their fate has been unequivocally determined. This was said by top military sources to our correspondent Shmu'el Tal. This morning IDF representatives will visit the homes of the kidnapped soldiers in order to update the families.

This morning the searches will continue in 16 Shi'ite villages in southern Lebanon. UNIFIL headquarters have reported that there is no change in the size of the forces conducting the searches. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the IDF soldiers have so far interrogated approximately 2,000 inhabitants. Most of them were freed after the interrogation, but several remain in detention. Among those interrogated are some prominant Shi'ite clerics who are known for their support of Hizballah. Their mosques were thoroughly searched.

Commander on Reported Execution

TA201211 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] There is still no confirmation of reports that one of the Israeli soldiers kidnapped in south Lebanon has been killed. Israeli military sources refused to comment on last night's statement from Beirut, claiming that one of the two soldiers kidnapped on Monday has been executed. In south Lebanon the search for the missing men goes on.

Israeli military sources say the Hizballah Shi'ite Muslims who carried out the attacks came from outside the area. Northern Front Commander General Ori Or told reporter Alan Ben-'Ami that there is still no hard evidence that the two Israelis have been taken out of the area, or that any of them are dead.

Shi'ite Leaders on Search

TA200712 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Heads of Shi'ite villages north of the security strip have informed IDF officers they cannot publicly support the searches for the two soldiers, but they will do whatever they can to help locate them. This is reported by our correspondent Hayim Hecht. So far the IDF soldiers have met little violent opposition to the searches. Shi'ite clerics in the area of Tyre and the Al-Zahrani called on their followers to take up arms and fight the IDF soldiers. The clerics denounced Amal leaders who, according to them, prevent attacks against the IDF soldiers.

Iraqi Pilots Training at U.S. Base in Turkey

TA191626 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Feb 86 p 1

[Text] Baghdad — Iraqi pilots have been training since the beginning of the month at the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force base at Diyarbakir in eastern Turkey, according to the Turkish newspaper *AL-'AMAL AL-ISLAMI*. The paper, monitored by Itim, quoted sources in the Turkish Islamic Movement.

Turkish Foreign Ministry Issues Denial

TA191544 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish 1512 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Ankara, 19 Feb (AA) — A report which appeared in the foreign press regarding the training of Iraqi pilots at the Diyarbakir Rapid Deployment Force [RDF] base has been denied.

The Foreign Ministry has made the following statement in connection with the report titled "Iraqi Pilots at U.S. Base," which appeared at the Israeli *THE JERUSALEM POST* newspaper: An unfounded report has appeared at the 16 February issue of the *THE JERUSALEM POST* under the heading, "Iraqi Pilots at U.S. Base," concerning the training of Iraqi pilots at the RDF base in Diyarbakir [words indistinct]. There are no U.S. troops at the Turkish Armed Forces' airbase in Diyarbakir. This report is unfounded, unsubstantiated, and fabricated in all respects.

ALGERIA

Further Reportage on Tripartite Talks

Energy Minister Interviewed

LD182101 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Algeria, Iran and Libya call on all oil-exporting countries to widen their concerted action in order to stop the worsening of the oil market. This call follows the tripartite meeting in Algiers.

The Algerian-Libyan-Iranian meeting, with the participation of the ministers of foreign affairs, finance and energy, discussed the concern of these three countries which are faced with an unjustified worsening of the world oil market -- an open economic aggression. Within this context the three countries state that the situation currently prevailing in the world oil market, which has a negativeaffect on the economies of oil-exporting countries, is not the result of market forces but a consequence of planned strategy aimed at harming the oil-exporting countries and eroding the income needed for their economic and social development.

Algeria, Iran and Libya also consider that OPEC is not the only target; it also aims at depriving Third World countries from exericisng their sovereignty over their natural resources. For this reason Algeria, Iran and Libya call on other oil-exporting countries — whether or not they are be members of OPEC — to concerted, collective action.

Mr Belkacem Nabi [Algerian minister of energy, chemical and petroleum industries] was interviewed by an Algiers Radio correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Nabi] I believe that the current oil situation is not only unjustifed, but also represents a worsening. It is in fact a worsening of the world oil market; it is a worsening of the terms of exchange; it is a collapse of oil prices. This is not justified either on an economic plane or on the energy plane proper. The three countries which met in Algeries had a second round of talks which enabled them to examine the current situation, their data, and viewpoints. They agreed that order must be restored on the world market, and to that effect they called on all the oil-exporting countries which, in one way or another, are concerned by the current collapse in the oil prices and, consequently, with the restoration of order and price levels on this same market, to act. How should this be done? I believe that it is quite clear that all countries which see their oil incomes melting like snow in the sun have the same concerns and anxieties, and are trying -- like Algeria -- to review what has happened since the last OPEC conference and, above all, to develop a certain range of actions to stop the worsening of the situation.

[Question] Could this lead to a meeting of an enlarged meeting of oil-exporting countries?

[Nabi] This could lead to a meeting of all oil-exporting countries, or of the majority of oil-exporting countries, because all countries are concerned with and interested in what is happening on the world oil market, even the countries with very high incomes. I do not believe it to be (?normal) behavior to transfer hundreds of millions of dollars daily from developing to rich countries, and I believe that all oil-exporting countries would like the current situation — which is exceptional in the history of OPEC and of oil, if one excludes what happened during the first world oil crisis — to end as soon as possible.

[Question] The association of [words indistinct] and ministers of finance of Iran, Algeria and Libya to the oil ministers' talks gives a wider dimension to the examination of the oil situation. What significance can one ascribe to this enlarging of the framework of the talks?

[Nabi] I think it suffices to refer to world press reports to know that the consequences of the brutal collapse of the oil prices have for a long time gone beyond the mere framework of the oil sector, and have in some cases dealt a direct blow to the economic and social development of all developing oil-exporting countries and, in some cases, of industrialized oil-exporting coutries.

[Question] What conditions need to be met in order to hold the next extraordinary OPEC meeting?

[Nabi] I believe that before speaking of an extraordinary conference one should know the agenda and the chances of success of this extraordinary conference. We should not forget that throughout 1985, oil prices were more or less near OPEC official prices. To be more precise, throughout the second half of 1985, oil prices consistently rose and improved and, in some cases, rose above OPEC official prices. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Ministers Issue Communique

LD182109 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Communique issued by the tripartite Algerian-Iranian-Libyan ministerial meeting at the conclusion of the talks in Algiers on 18 February]

[Text] In light of the current situation in the oil market, which is characterized by instability resulting from the political pressures, a meeting was held in Algiers on 17 and 18 February 1986 by the foreign, oil and finance Ministers of Algeria, Libya and Iran as a continuation of the meeting of the oil ministers of the said states which was held in Tripoli during 3-5 February 1986.

The three delegations believe that the current situation prevailing in the oil market, which inflicts grave harm on the economy of the oil exporting countries, is not the result of the normal state of the market forces, but is due to a premeditated plan which aims to deprive these countries of the realization of their national achievements and to limit their revenues, which are necessary for their economic and social development.

In this connection, the three delegations express their profound concern and regret to the parties that participated in creating this deteriorating situation in prices. The three delegations believe that OPEC members are not the sole target of this strategy. This strategy is also aimed against all countries of the Third World to prevent them from exercising their legitimate rights over their natural resources.

In accordance with the organic statute of OPEC, the declaration of intent issued by the Algiers summit of 1975, and the OPEC resolutions of March 1983 and December 1984 -- which are still binding and in force, and which stipulate the defense of the price structure and the guaranteeing of regular revenues for them -- they call on all OPEC members to abide by them so that stability can be be restored to the oil market.

They believe that the only effective means for preserving the high interests of the oil-exporting countries lies in the defense of prices and in maintaining the purchasing power of oil. In affirmation of the importance of the role of the organization which has participated in the issues of development of its members and of the world economy, the three delegations believe that the unity of the organization calls for safeguarding the interests of all its members by adopting joint measures and refraining from taking any unilateral steps. They call on them to shoulder their responsibilities in bolstering the solidarity among themselves by pursuing joint measures. They urge the other oil states outside the organization whose economy was also affected by the current market situation to shoulder their responsibilities and join the organization in its efforts to restore stability to the oil market.

For this reason the OPEC members should abandon pursuing the oil pricing system linked to the prices of oil by-products, and refrain from exceeding the production quota — a matter which led to the creation of a glut in the international market and the deterioration of prices. The states should return to the adoption of the policy of official pricing and follow a suitable production program in accordance with the provisions of the March 1983 agreement so that the glut can be removed from the market. At a time when the three delegations reaffirm their support for and solidarity with the organization, they believe that the preservation of the organization's cohesion is very beneficial as far as the world economy and financial stability are concerned. In view of the gravity of the situation and in order that the measures necessary for restoring the stability of the oil market can be effected by condensed negotiations, they call on the other oil-exporting states to hold an urgent joint ministerial meeting for the adoption of the measures necessary for the realization of the above-mentioned objectives.

FLN Politburo Discusses Libya, Gulf War, Chad, Oil

LD192027 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] There was a meeting of the FLN party Politburo today chaired by President Chadli Bendjedid. The Politburo heard reports and examined certain regional and international issues, the latest developments of which are of direct concern to Algeria.

In this context, the Politburo assessed the efforts made by Algeria with a view to contributing to an improvement of the political situation in the region in order to hasten the process of establishing a united Maghreb.

The Politburo expressed satisfaction with the development of relations and cooperation with sisterly Tunisia and Mauritania as an expression of a common desire to give full effect to the treaty of fraternal relations and concord, to settle the problems of the region, and to build a united Maghreb ruled by harmony, entente, and collective prosperity. The Politburo also examined Algerian-Libyan relations and their development in light of recent meetings in Algiers and Tripoli, which resulted from the decisions of the summit which brought President Chadli Bendjedid and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi together in Aim 'Amenas.

The Politburo also examined the serious developments and the distressing escalation of the Iraq-Iran conflict in light of Algeria's consistent position since the beginning of that conflict. Algeria reiterates its conviction that the fratricidal confrontation between Iraq and Iran serves neither of those two countries nor the region's stability and security, and even less the true cause that links them within the Arab-Muslim community. The Politburo once more insistently calls for an end to the shedding of Muslim blood and demanded that the two brother countries finally give up the use of arms as a means of settling their differences, which, regardless of their nature or magnitude, do not justify this war of disastrous dimensions. The Politburo also strongly calls on the brotherly countries of Iraq and Iran to join in a peaceful settlement of their differences with the courage and sense of responsibility. The Politburo states that a settlement must be based on the respect of the two states' territorial integrity and the return to the internationally established existing borders.

The Politburo examined the worsening situation in Chad and deplores the resumption of armed confrontation on that territory which has damaged attempts to promote national reconciliation and protect it from foreign interference and intervention. The Politburo reiterates Algeria's affirmation to the African settlement program regarding the Chad issue and stresses the need to avoid raising obstacles and preventing the implementation of this program. The Politburo reiterates Algeria's encouragement and support for the OAU chairman and the Congolese president in their efforts to successfully implement the noble mission entrusted to them by the OAU.

The Politburo finally examined the world oil market's negative course, as well as Algeria's current efforts to contribute to the necessary improvement of the situation together with all those concerned. In this context, the Politburo once more expresses its conviction that curbing these harmful developments involves reaffirming OPEC's values of solidarity, trust, and discipline which defend the vital economic interests of its members. The Politburo also reiterates the need for collective action to rectify oil prices in order to respond to the needs of the oil-exporting countries and also to the requirements of stability of the world economy. The Politburo also examined the meetings undertaken by Algeria to attain this objective and registers its satisfaction with the results of the tripartite meeting recently held in Algeria. The Politburo also reiterates the need for collective action as a means to restore oil prices [words indistinct] the development of the oil-exporting countries which ensures the world economy's stability. The Politburo also [words indistinct] and satisfactorily notes the results of the tripartite [words indistinct] in Algiers.

President Nominates New Slate of Vice Ministers

LD200300 Algiers APS in English 1010 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Algiers, 19/02/86 (APS) — President Chadli Bendjedid undertook a reshuffle in the government. The posts of vice-minsiter in charge of electric and mechanical industries, vice-minister in charge of construction materials and vice-minister in charge of sports have been suppressed. The former holder's of those posts have been assigned new missions. The head of state further made the following nominations.

Mr. Mohamed Aberkane is appointed as vice-minister in charge of cooperation before the foreign affairs minister.
Mr. Mohamed Mazouni as vice-minister in charge of fisheries before the agriculture and fisheries minister.
Mr. Mohamed Salah Iemtouri as vice-minister in charge of tourism before the culture and tourism minister.
Mr. Yacine Fergani as vice-minister in charge of chemical and petrochemical industries before the minister of energy, chemical and petrochemical industries.
Mrs Leila Ettayeb as vice-minister in charge secondary and technical education to the minister of national education.
Mr. Aissa Abdelaoui as vice-minister in charge of environment and forestries to the minister of hydraulics, environment and forestries.

4 New Ministers Named

HK190434 Hong Kong AFP in English 0332 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Algiers, Feb 19 (AFP) — Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid reshuffled his cabinet for the third time in nine days Tuesday, naming four new ministers. They were:

Justice: Mohamed Cherif Kharroubi (formerly education minister);
Education: Mrs Zehour Duanici (formerly social welfare minister);
Religious affairs: Boualem Baki (formerly justice minister);
Heavy industry: Faycal Boudraa.

FLN Secretariat Reshuffled

LD191244 Algiers APS in English 1130 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Algiers, 19/02/86 (APS) — President Chadli Bendjedid reshuffled the structures of the C.C. Permanent Secretariat of the FLN party on Tuesday. Hence, besides the discipline commission presided over by Mohamed Abada and the Finance and Auditing Commission presided over by Mohamed Salah Launchi, the permanent Secretariat is made up of councils, sectors and departments. The councils are:

The Youth Higher Council;
The National Language Higher Council;
The Council of Friendship and Solidarity With Peoples.

The sectors are:

The sector of Organisation and Popular Assemblies;
The sector of Mass Organisations and Voluntary Work;
The sector of Information, Culture and Training;
The sector of Economic and Social Affairs;
The sector of External Relations.

President Chadli also appointed:

Abdelkrim Souissi at the head of the Youth Higher Council;
Mouloud Kassim Nait Balkacem at the head of the National Language Higher Council;
Sadek Zouaten at the head of the Council of Solidarity and Friendship With Peoples;
Salah Goudjil at the head of the Sector of Organisation and Popular Assemblies;
Mohamed Sbaa, at the head of sector of Mass Organisations and Voluntary Work;
Bachir Khaldoun, at the head of the sector of Information, Culture and Training;
Ahmed Ali Ghazali, at the head of the sector of Economic and social affairs;
Abderrezzak Bouhara at the head of the sector of External Relations.

The president of the republic made further nominations at the Presidency of the Republic:

Mr. Larbi Belkheir is appointed as cabinet director;
Mr. Mouloud Mahrouche as secretary general; and
Mr. Mohamed Saleh Mohammedi as secretary general of the government.

[Algiers APS in Arabic at 1530 GMT on 19 February reports on the restructuring of the FLN Central Committee Permanent Secretariat which adds: "The post of the official in charge of the FLN Permanent Secretariat, currently occupied by Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, does not appear on the list."]

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Iranian Deputy Minister

LD191454 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1435 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Feb (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution received today Iran Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Besharati as the personal envoy of Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'. The Iranian envoy handed the brother leader a letter from the Iranian president.

Sudanese Minister Arrives, Cites U.S. 'Threats'

LD160005 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Sudanese Minister of Energy, Industry, Minerals and Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Uthman Musa, arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. Brother Musa stressed, in statement to a JANA correspondent, that the U.S. imperialist threats against the Libyan Arab people are threats aimed at the Arab people everywhere. The Sudanese minister lauded the Arab people's courageous stance in its confrontation with imperialism and Zionism and added that his visit to the Jamahiriyah falls within the framework of strengthening the two fraternal peoples' existing relations and following up what already has been agreed upon in the various fields of the two countries' cooperation.

VOGAH: U.S. Planning More Exercises in March

LD191613 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Voice of the Revolutionary Committees]

[Text] Sources very close to the U.S. Ministry of War [as heard] have stated that the U.S. Administration, which decided to send a third aircraft carrier to the Mediterranean in order to reinforce the U.S. 6th Fleet, is intending to carry out new provocative maneuvers off the Libyan Arab shores at the beginning of March.

The spokesman of the U.S. Ministry of War added that the Libyan Air Force proved its existence during the provocative maneuvers that ended the day before yesterday. He added that the Libyan Air Force proved capable of more intensive activities: More than 140 aircraft made sorties in order to meet the aircraft carriers of the U.S. 6th Fleet, which were deployed off the Libyan Arab shores during these maneuvers.

Military Exercises in Mediterranean Concluded

LD191427 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] JANA has learned that the exercises by the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah Air Force, Navy and Air Defense Forces with live ammunition in the Mediterranean and outside the waters of the Gulf of Sidra ended last night. The Jamahiriyah Air Force, Navy and Air Defense Forces began their exercises with live ammunition in the Mediterranean at 1200 GMT 2 February.

JANA: France Pursues U.S. Policy in Chad

LD191646 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] The spokesman for the U.S. State Department stated today that the U.S. Administration supports French military intervention in Chad. He described this intervention as strong, and said it is being carried out on behalf of Western nations. He pointed out that the United States is now rushing more aid to the clique of rebellion in Ndjamena.

The JANA editor has commented that it is not strange that such a statement is issued by the U.S. Administration. It is the logic of colonialism which is hostile to the freedom of the peoples in the world. And here is France, being run by a government that says it is socialist, which follows U.S. policy and echoes Reagan's imperialist policy. This contradicts what the French president himself had earlier declared, that is, that his country embraces the principle of noninterference and non-hostility to the freedom of the peoples. The editor wonders what is the difference between the revolutionaries in El Salvador, whose cause France claims to understand, and the Chadian people's cause? France's words conflict with its deeds.

The colonialist policy and the policies of interference, repression of peoples and their exploitation, are an established French policy in Africa, regardless of the inclinations of the government and the president at the Elysee. The living proof is the official French direct military and declared intervention against the will of the Chadian people -- this time with the support of U.S. imperialism.

Chadian POW's Cited on Food, Medicine Shortages

LD201047 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0810 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Bardai, 20 Feb (JANA) — A number of prisoners who have fallen into the hands of the Chadian GUNT [National Union Transition Government] forces during recent battles in the Oum Chalouba and (?Karkadio) regions emphasized that the rebel Habre has involved them in a losing war which harms Chadian unity and territorial integrity. They pointed out that they are suffering from an acute shortage of food and medicine.

The Chadian GUNT sources added that the prisoners confirmed the participation by French forces equipped with various weapons, including aircraft, on the side of the forces of the rebel Habre, whereas the prisoners, whose numbers have reached hundreds, denied the presence of any foreign forces fighting on the side of the Chadian GUNT forces.

MAURITANIA

Reportage on Presidential Foreign Visits

Comments on Paris Talks

LD182244 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Colonel Maayouia Ould Sidi Ahmed Ould Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, returned this evening with his wife from France. At the airport his excellency the president made the following statement to the national press: I have returned from Paris where I took part in the conference of heads of French-speaking states. The work of the conference, in which states from the five continents were represented, was characterized by the will to hold frank and fruitful consultations to consider the interests of the peoples concerned. This conference gave me the opportunity to talk with various presidents on questions of interest to our country and theirs. I made a stopover in Morocco where I held talks with my brother King Hassan II on questions of mutual interest.

Departs for PRC

AB191552 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] His Excellency Colonel Maaouiya Sid' Ahmed Ould Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state, and his wife left Nouakchott this morning for Beijing. During his journey, the head of state will be accompanied by the following personalities: His Excellency Ahmed Ould Minnih, CMSN member and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; [name and title indistinct]; His Excellency Mohamed Fadel Ould Dah, minister of water supply and energy; [name and title indistinct]; Mr Diagana Youssouf, Mauritanian ambassador to the People's Republic of China, [passage indistinct], and four journalists. [passage indistinct]

MOROCCO

Continuing Reportage on Visit of FRG Foreign Minister

Received by Prime Minister

LD141402 Rabat MAP in English 1237 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Rabat, Feb 14 (MAP) — West German Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher currently on an official visit to Morocco was received here Thursday by Moroccan Premier Mohamed Karim Lamrani. During the meeting attended by several Moroccan Cabinet members, the two sides looked into bilateral relations in the economic, political and social fields, stressed the excellent cooperation ties between the two countries and expressed the mutual desire to have bilateral cooperation further enhanced.

While evoking the prospects for relations between Morocco and the European Economic Community (EEC), the Moroccan premier voiced the wish to see West Germany carry on traditional backing to Moroccan initiatives.

Moroccan concerns over the enlargement of the EEC were also evoked during the meeting Genscher had with Moroccan Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Abdellatif Filali. The West German head of diplomacy expressed understanding for Moroccan concerns and stressed the necessity for more efforts to avoid hindering traditional flow of exchanges between the EEC and southern Mediterranean countries.

The two sides agreed on the need to further consolidate relations between Morocco and West Germany while Genscher expressed the readiness of his country to most [as received] its participation to Moroccan economic development. They also agreed on the necessity for a formula that could trigger negotiations in the Middle East while taking into consideration the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people acknowledged by West Germany since 1977.

Genscher also held [words indistinct] a work session with the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Moroccan House of Representatives and heads of Moroccan parliamentary groups. The two sides evoked the Moroccan democratic experience, the Moroccan Sahara question, the Palestinian problem, Moroccan-EEC relations, third world indebtedness and disarmament. Representatives of parliamentary groups took the floor to explain the true nature of the Sahara question saying it is a political problem between Morocco and Algeria which "uses its so-called Polisario to wage [war] against Morocco with a view to imposing its diktat on the countries in the region and wrestling access to the Atlantic". They also recalled the stages the decolonization of the Moroccan Sahara had gone through and underlined the fact that the so-called "Polisario" was created after the decolonization of the Western Sahara.

Genscher also took the floor at the end of the session to express admiration for Moroccan political structures and reiterated the wish of his country for a wider bilateral cooperation to be extended to every field. The head of West German diplomacy later attended a dinner reception offered in his honour by Moroccan Foreign and Cooperation Minister Abdellatif Filali.

Reportage on Visit of Hungarian Minister

Joint Trade Commission Set Up

LD181329 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Rabat, Feb 18 (MAP) — Visiting Hungarian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Gabor Nagy Monday [17 February] conferred with Moroccan Minister of Commerce and Industry Tahar Masmoudi. Talks centered on means of consolidating bilateral cooperation, mainly through boosting trade exchanges between the two countries.

During this meeting, the two sides decided to set up a joint trade commission in charge of reviewing certain clauses of trade agreements concluded between the two countries.

The Hungarian official had earlier conferred with Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Ahmed Cherkaoui, with whom he examined bilateral relations and international issues, mainly the Middle East crisis, the Iraqi-Iranian war and security in the Mediterranean.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD191211 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Casablanca, 19 Feb (MAP) — Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Gabor Nagy ended his working visit to Morocco yesterday which lasted 3 days.

Gabor Nagy stated on leaving Mohamed V International Airport in Casablanca that his discussions with the secretary of state for foreign affairs, Ahmed Cherkaoui, centered on international matters, the Middle East situation, and the Arab Maghreb region. He added that the views of the two countries on most international matters were identical or very close.

He pointed out that during this visit he acquainted himself with the basic elements of Moroccan foreign policy and its stance vis-a-vis the Sahara problem. The Hungarian deputy foreign minister also pointed out that only peaceful means can resolve the Sahara problem.

Gabor Nagy also mentioned that he and the minister of commerce and industry had discussed the possibility of developing bilateral relations, especially in the sphere of economic cooperation, pointing out that he perceived readiness on both sides to strengthen and deepen these relations.

SUDAN

Siwar al-Dhahab Inaugurates Project in Port Sudan

JN141538 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 14 Feb (SUNA) — General 'Abd al-Rahman Muhammad Hasan Siwar al-Dhahab, chairman of the Transitional Military Council, returned to Khartoum from Port Sudan this morning after a 2-day visit where he laid the cornerstone of the Suakin Port and opened the first and second stages of the development of the Port Sudan port. On this occasion his excellency delivered a speech yesterday, Thursday, in which he praised the efforts made to complete the first and second stages of modernizing the port which will have a positive effect on our national economy.

In his speech, Gen Siwar al-Dhahab touched on the regrettable incidents that have taken place recently in Port Sudan and the victims and destruction which resulted from these acts. He appealed to the citizens to follow democratic methods in resolving their differences.

Regarding the economic situation in the country, his excellency mentioned the challenges we are facing which we inherited from the defunct regime. He urged the citizens to double their efforts, abandon the strikes, and work in order to save the homeland.

In his speech, Gen Siwar al-Dhahab noted the escalating military operations in southern Sudan. He added that this serious situation should prompt all citizens to close ranks and support the Armed Forces in order to maintain the unity and safety of the one homeland.

With regard to the new Port Sudan airport project, Gen Siwar al-Dhahab announced in his speech that the Saudi Development Fund has agreed to finance it. He added that the cornerstone of this new airport will be laid in the near future. The cost of the new airport which the Saudi fund agreed to finance will be $27 million.

Trade Unions on TMC 'Conspiracy' Against People

JN191102 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 19 (SUNA) — The trade unions groups warned the Sudanese people against an internal conspiracy aimed at retaining the Transitional Military Council in power after April, 26. In a press statement released here yesterday the trade unions groups accused the TMC of violating April popular revolution and its charter by implementing the defunct May regime elements programme.

The trade unions groups urged all the trade unions and associations to hold its general assembly and to mobilize its membership to counter the conspiracy. The statement went on to say the TMC by rejecting the representation of new forces in the Constituent Assembly had sided with the enemies of the people and thus paving the way to abort democracy.

TUNISIA

Bourguiba Receives Chadian President's Envoy

LD191845 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text](Karoum Ahmed), the secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation and the special envoy of the Chadian president, Hissein Habre arrived in Tunis this afternoon with a message from the Chadian president to President Habib Bourguiba dealing with the latest developments in Chad.

He said that in view of a foreign country's aggression on Chad, it was natural that President Habre would inform his brother President Habib Bourguiba about the latest developments in the situation in Chad and receive his excellency's advice.

Replying to a question concerning the military situation in Chad, Karoum Ahmed that the situation on the front has settled down, though the government forces which have succeeded so far in repulsing all attacks against their positions, fear more attacks might be launched. He said that the Ndjamena airport, which was attacked last Monday, has now resumed operation and can accept huge aircraft despite heavy damage.

Essebsi Meets With French External Affairs Minister

LD190029 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Beji Caid Essebsi, accompanied by Shaykh Mas'ud, the Saudi Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, met in Paris today Mr Roland Dumas, French minister of external relations. They discussed the situation in the Middle East and the Gulf region. It is known that Tunisia and Saudi Arabia are members of the Arab seven-man committee set to end the Iraq-Iran war.

Reportage on Visit of FRG Foreign Minister

Arrives 14 Feb

LD142148 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Within the framework of an official visit which will last 2 days Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the FRG deputy chancellor and minister of foreign affairs arrived in Tunis this afternoon. He expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome he received and his happiness about visiting Tunisia again — this country which is linked to Federal Germany by strong ties.

Meets With Bourguiba, Others

LD151316 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] At the republican palace in Carthage this morning, President Habib Bourgiba received Hans-Dietrich Genscher, vice chancellor and foreign minister of the FRG. Also attending the meeting were Mohamed Mzali, prime minister and interior minister; Mansour Skheiri, minister head of the Presidential Court; Beji Caid Essebsi, foreign minister; and the ambassadors of the two countries.

Following the meeting, Hans-Dietrich Genscher made this statement: I am very happy to have the opportunity to meet with President Habib Bourguiba whom we esteem, not only as leader of the Tunisian people but also as a friend of Germanany. I have expressed to President Bourguiba our great interest closer cooperation, particularly in the political and economic fields. We also attach great importance to the Tunisian leaders' assessment of the problems of the region.

Meets With Arab League's Klibi

LD151844 Hamburg DPA in German 1715 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Tunis, 15 Feb (DPA) — Chedli Klibi, the secretary general of the Arab League, received the proposals of Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the federal foreign minister, for a new involvement by the European Community in the Near East in a basically positive way. Genscher announced this to journalists here on Saturday afternoon after a conversation with the Arab politician. Klibi explained to Genscher that the League was now awaiting the final version of the European proposals and would discuss them in March.

The German ideas for a collaboration among the Europeans toward solving the Near Eastern conflict amount to the so-called "Troika" -- the current council chairman, his predecessor, and successor according to turn, speaking within the framework of the European-Arab dialogue with the Arab states about possibilities for the solution of the Near Eastern conflict and about combatting terrorism.

Genscher stressed at his press conference in Tunis, at the conclusion of his 3-day Maghreb trip that the EC demands issued in Venice continued to be valid. This applied above all to the realization of the right to self-determination for the Palestinians and the recognition of Israel's right to exist. Replying to questions from Arab journalists, Genscher said that the EC Venice declaration was in large part compatible with the declaration of the Arab summit meeting at Fes in 1982.

At the same time, the federal foreign minister referred to the fact that finding a peaceful solution in the Middle East had been rendered all the more difficult because, despite all efforts, the Arab countries have yet to come up with a unified point of view. He repeated that at the upcoming European-Arab talks, it should not only be a question of fighting terrorism but also its causes, to wit: the effecting of a peaceful solution to the Near Eastern conflict.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD152245 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] The FRG foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, left Tunis this evening at the conclusion of an official visit to our country. Genscher was seen off at the airport by the minister of foreign affairs, Beji Caid Essebsi, and a number of the Foreign Ministry's senior officials.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Government Approves New Budget for 1986

AB191144 Bangui Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] The CAR Government has just approved the finance bill which provides for the new budget for 1986. Jean-Louis Gervil Yambala, minister of state for economy and finance, briefed the national press on Monday on the budget and the changes which make it different from that of last year.

The budget totals 54,580,650,000 CFA francs, that is a 2-billion CFA increase over the 1985 budget. It includes two sections: the state operational budget totaling 36,436,650,000 CFA francs with 25 billion CFA francs for salaries and wages, including about 4 billion CFA francs to be paid in family allowances. The second section called extraordinary budget or capital amounts to 18.142 billion CFA francs [words indistinct]. It is an austerity budget as was the previous one. As Minister Yambala pointed out last Monday, the CAR [words indistinct] has begun to restore its financial equilibrium.

CHAD

Information Minister Says Situation Calm Throughout

AB191738 Paris AFP in English 1723 GMT 19 Feb 86

[By Jean-Claude Chapon]

[Excerpt] Ndjamena, Feb 19 (AFP) — Chad's pro-Western government today said the military situation was calm throughout the country, but warned that rebel forces and their Libyan allies were bolstering positions in the north after the arrival here of French fighter aircraft, troops and weapons.

Information Minister Mahamat Soumaila said there were no new reports of fighting in the country, but said the Libyans were "continuing to strengthen their positions in the north of Chad, particularly at Chicha, Faya Largeau and Fada." Libyan warplanes, he said, were "daily overflying positions held by government troops along the 16th parallel" — the southernmost limit set by France for the rebels' advance.

The airport in Ndjamena, meanwhile, was reopened to wide-bodied aircraft today after engineering teams finished repairing damage caused to the runway on Monday by a bomber identified by French officials as Libyan.

Ndjamena Airport Bomber Said To Come From Libya

AU201234 Paris AFP in English 1225 GMT 20 Feb 86

(Text) Paris, Feb 20 (AFP) — A Tupolev TU-22 bomber which attacked the airport at the Chadian capital of Ndjamena last Monday took off from an air base in southern Libya, a French Air Force general said today.

Tripoli has denied that the plane, which bombed the airport from a high altitude, closing it to commercial and heavy military traffic until yesterday, was Libyan, and said it belonged to the Libyan-backed rebels who hold the north of Chad.

General Bertrand Litre, a deputy chief of the general staff in charge of operations, said the plane could only have come from the base at Sebha in the south of Libya. France knew the Libyans' deployment schedule, he added.

Gen Litre was unable to confirm reports that the TU-22 had crashed before regaining its base. "We have not tried to find out, but with a range of 2,900 kilometres (1,900 miles) it would have been able to return to Sebha," he added.

The attack came 24 hours after a French raid that had been requested by the Ndjamena government on a Libyan-built rebel airbase in northern Chad.

The Ndjamena airport reopened to commercial traffic yesterday, and was reported able to receive even the largest transport planes.

GABON

Loan Agreement To Extend Airport Signed With France

AB182210 Paris AFP in French 1835 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Gabon and France today in Libreville signed a financial agreement aimed at helping to undertake extension work on the Leon M'ba Airport in the Gabonese capital. The extension work, which will be completed in 1987, is expected to cost Gabon 10 billion CFA francs (Fr200 million).

France has assigned to the Aid and Cooperation Fund (FAC) an amount of 300 million CFA francs (Fr6 million) to finance the supervision of the modernization projects.

The agreement, which was signed today between Michel Essongue, the Gabonese minister of civil aviation, and Pierre Dabezies, the French ambassador to Gabon, covers the first installment of 150 million CFA francs (Fr3 million).

ZAIRE

Mobutu Appoints Head of Special Presidential Corps

AB191615 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1448 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Kinshasa, 19 Feb (AZAP) — Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, MPR founding chairman and president of the Republic of Zaire, has appointed Col Nzimbi Ngale Kongo wa Basa commander of the Special Presidential Corps. This was contained in Ordinance No 86-069 of 13 February 1986 which was published today.

The Special Presidential Corps, which is under the command of the supreme commander of the Zairian Armed Forces, is in charge of ceremonial services and presidential security. This was contained in Ordinance No 86-068 of 13 February which was also published today.

AZAP Calls for Peace in Chad Through Reconciliation

AB191631 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1100 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Commentary: "Chad: Peace Through National Reconciliation"]

[Text] Kinshasa, 18 Feb (AZAP) — With the bombardment on Sunday of the Ouadi Doum (northeastern Chad) airfield by French Jaguar planes, and the reprisal by the Libyan Air Force, which bombed the runway of Ndjamena airport on Monday without causing much damage, the Chadian conflict has once more entered the limelight.

Nevertheless, this rise to the forefront by the French Army should not obliterate the fact that peace in Chad can only be achieved through the reconciliation of the Chadian factions, since it has been learned through experience that no solution can be found through fighting.

Receiving Colonel Alphonse Kotiga, commander in chief of the Codos (guerrillas) of southern Chad, in Ndjamena on Sunday, and who signed a reconciliation agreement in Libreville on Friday, President Hissein Habre pointed out the need for reconciliation, underlining the patriotism and exemplary nationalism of the Codos' leader.

Similarly, General Djibril Negue Djogo, president of the Chadian Democratic Front, who rallied behind the Ndjamena government last December, has just launched an appeal to Chadians living in exile to return to the country and contribute to strengthening national unity and reconstruction. According to Gen Djogo, the Chadian conflict has been generalized because Chadians have allowed themselves to be manipulated by foreigners.

This analysis of the situation made by the Chadian, and moreover, by a former opponent, and commander in chief of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] army, making him a pawn on the chessboard, is aimed at only one thing: dividing the Chadian people to prevent any reconciliation. [sentence as received]

The warring factions in Chad need to be aware of this situation and lay down their arms in order to prepare for negotiations with a view to achieving a peaceful settlement which would lead to long-lasting peace, and thus ensure the country's unity. The dynamic search for a national consensus must be pursued in order to enable these sons of Africa, who are fed up with war, to put the country back on the road of development, since the continuation of the conflict fueled by regional, ethnic, religious, and ideological differences constitutes a threat not only to Chad's existence, but also to that of neighboring countries.

France's support which through the Ouadi Doum raid, the dispatch of warplanes to Ndjamena, and the installation of a new military deterrent force is aimed at giving a strong warning to Tripoli, is indeed necessary to prevent the Libyan advance, through the intermediary of the GUNT, beyond the 16th parallel. But this is merely one stage in the long peace procedure in Chad. Paris' firmness in the face of the situation around the 16th parallel will certainly deter Libya from crossing the Red Line.

It is nevertheless certain that the beginning of an era of peace in Chad depends on negotiation between the Chadian brothers, so this must be encouraged. Too much blood has been spilled. Chad is now in need of rainwater to cultivate its land and feed its people. Most Chadian factions have understood this necessity and have been rallying behind the Ndjamena government as the days go by. It is a good gesture which may be confirmed in the days ahead; otherwise, all hope may be lost in Chad's future.

IVORY COAST

Abidjan Announces Resumption of Ties With USSR

AB201309 Abidjan Domestic Service in French
1245 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Ivory Coast and the Soviet Union have resumed diplomatic relations. Following is the official communique testifying to the reestablishment of Ivorian-Soviet relations:

The Governments of the Republic of Ivory Coast and the Soviet Union, motivated by a common desire to develop relations of friendship and cooperation between their peoples, have decided to reestablish diplomatic relations as of today, Thursday 20 February 1986 and to resume as soon as possible activities in their embassies in each other's capital.

LIBERIA

Asylum for Duvalier Rejected 'At This Time'

AB192018 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
2000 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] After careful study the government of Liberia has finally made up its mind to reject a request from the French government to it to grant political asylum to Jean-Claude Duvalier. We join Daniel McGhee for the details:

[Begin Mc Ghee recording] It has been announced in Monrovia that the government of Liberia has rejected a request to grant the ousted and deposed Haitian president, Jean-Claude Duvalier, political asylum. A foreign ministry press release today said that it regrets that it cannot grant this request at this time. [end recording]

NIGERIA

CONCORD on Problems Remaining in UK Relations

AB200711 Lagos Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 20 Feb 86

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Writing on relations between Nigeria and Britain, the *NATIONAL CONCORD* makes it clear that although there are signs of improvements, a number of knots still remain to be tied to ensure continuity of mutual cooperation. The paper regrets that the balance of trade between both countries still tips heavily in favor of Britain, in spite of the fact that Nigeria is, apart from South Africa, Britain's most important trading partner. The *CONCORD* says this and the question of fugitives amongst others, should be resolved.

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Mediation in Chad

MB191221 London BBC World Service in English
1709 GMT 18 Feb 86

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] While Hissein Habre in N'djamena and Goukouni Oueddei's Libyan-backed rebels in the north of Chad argue about who is winning in the latest fighting and France pours in military aid for Habre, Nigeria is making another attempt to mediate. Nigeria's foreign minister, Bolaji Akinyemi, is off to Paris and Tripoli with some specific proposals to end the long drawn out conflict in Chad. On the line to Lagos, Rick Wells asked Mr Akinyemi what those proposals were:

[Begin recording] [Akinyemi] I cannot go into the details, of course. I mean the first is that, the real Chadian [word indistinct] must be around a conference table where a political solution could be found to the conflict. The second is that all non-Chadian forces really should leave Chad. I think that is a basic factor in whatever kind of agreement that one can work out. We succeeded before in Lagos in 1979 in getting all the Chadians round a conference table. We had to sign a document not only appointing a leader but laying down guidelines for governing their country. So, it is not an impossible task to do.

[Wells] You mention the previous initiative Nigeria was involved in Chad. Now in many ways that was a failure. Isn't there the danger that the same thing will happen again?

[Akinyemi] I would'nt call it a failure. I think that the 1979 agreement in Lagos did give Chad a broad-based government that was recognized by the OAU, so that is what I mean, that it is not an impossible task to do, I mean, the fact that government later on disintegrated is no justification for not trying again, especially since no solution seems to have worked in any case, whether it is through Nigerian agency or through any other agency. No solution has proved permanent.

[Wells] But don't you think, at the end of the line, it should be up to the country concerned to sort out its own problems?

[Akinyemi] Oh, yes, most defintely that is, but that is basic to our own attitude to Chad, that it is up to them to work out. But the situation where a civil war leads to a refugee influx into Nigeria where, you know, different aircrafts are bombing different parts of a country that is neighboring Nigeria, surely that is not a situation that Nigeria should ignore.

[Wells] When you meet Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi, will you be telling him to lay off?

[Akinyemi] I intend to discuss with him, I will express, our points of view to him and I will listen to his own points of view.

ANGOLA

Swedish Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Arrives

MB181419 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] The People's Republic of Angola and the Kingdom of Sweden are seeking to expand their relations of cooperation. After the visit to our country by Swedish Energy Minister Birgitta Dahl, a foreign trade delegation has been in Luanda since this morning. Joao Pedro has the details:

[Begin recording] [Pedro] Carl Johan Aberg, deputy minister of foreign trade with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, arrived in Luanda this morning to hold talks with the Angolan authorities in the field of trade. Carl Johan Aberg is accompanied by representatives of Swedish enterprises who will hold a series of talks with Angolan authorities and discuss matters in the framework of the existing relations between the two countries. Sweden is interested in developing [words indistinct] the economic, political, and trade relations with Angola and it is for this reason that we are here [words indistinct], said the Swedish deputy minsiter of foreign trade when speaking to the national media:

[Aberg in English, fading to Portuguese translation] My visit to Angola is to guide this Swedish trade delegation, representing (?12) Swedish companies. I could state that the (?Swedish Chamber of Commerce) is greatly interested in developing economic and trade relations with Angola. We are quite certain of the economic future of our two countries. There is a great deal of interest by the Swedish industrial sector in cooperation with Angola, and the visits by the energy minister and the deputy minister of foreign trade need to be seen in this perspective. Most of these companies are already represented in Angola and we hope that with this visit we will strengthen the existing links between Sweden and Angola. Such companies are involved in the assembly and delivery of trucks and construction.

[Pedro] It will be recalled that in the context of the relations between the two countries, Swedish Energy Minister Birgitta Dahl was in Luanda recently and held talks with Angolan authorities, particularly her counterpart Pedro de Castro van Dunem. She also met President of the Republic Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos. [end recording]

LESOTHO

New Government To Resume Ties With ROK

MB201222 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] The new Government of Lesotho, led by the chairman of the Military Council, His Excellency Major General Lekhanya, has announced that it has taken a decision to resume diplomatic relations with the ROK, known as South Korea, with effect from today, 20 February 1986.

The Government of the ROK has been notified of the decision through appropriate channels. It is understood that the ROK will open a residential mission in Maseru soon.

Diplomatic relations between Lesotho and the ROK were suspended by the previous Lesotho Government in June 1983.

Arrests of Three Former Ministers Revealed

MB191609 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 19 Feb 86

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Three former cabinet ministers under Chief Jonathan's regime in Lesotho are apparently in jail at the moment. It seems they were picked up 2 weeks after the military coup that toppled Chief Jonathan on 20 January and brought Major General Lekhanya to power, but their arrests and detentions have only just been revealed. On the line to Maseru, Julian Boudger asked journalist John Mukela who the detained ministers were.

[Begin recording] [Mukela] As far as we know, Desmond Sixishe the information and broadcasting minister in the former regime; Vincent Makhele, the foreign minister; Francis Matholaane, cooperatives and rural development; and then Ranthomeng Matete, who was Prime Minister Jonathan's private secretary. They have been picked up and have in fact been under detention for the past 2 weeks.

[Boudger] Well, what are they being charged with?

[Mukela] Well, no specific charges have as yet come out but it is of course known that these four were at the forefront of what was termed as the radical forces within the ruling Basotho National Party Youth League. Now that would seem to mean that they have been directly linked with the youth wing of the past regime and also, of course, there is the other element of them having been thought to have masterminded some sort of misappropriation of funds.

[Boudger] What evidence is there for misappropriation of funds?

[Mukela] Well, there have been reports, although unsubstantiated, and these have not at all been actually cleared by the government but the four were in fact found with sums of money which are unaccounted for. Some of this money was found in the roof of certain of these four and some of the money was in fact in mint condition, mint factory condition, unused, some was found — it is alleged — in the garden of one of these four, and this is of course a very serious accusation if it all is true.

[Boudger] What kind of quantities of money are we talking about here?

[Mukela] We are talking about several million maluti.

[Boudger] Now, you said that only these four are in detention. Does this mean that the rest of Chief Jonathan's ex-government has been cleared?

[Mukela] I wouldn't exactly say so. I do know for sure that the investigations into most of Chief Jonathan's former colleagues are still going on. I also do know that the inquiries will take quite some time to be concluded. These four have not yet been charged but I should believe that some sort of tribunal will be set up. [end recording]

MOZAMBIQUE

Armed Forces Kill 16 'Bandits' in Inhambane

MB191200 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] The Mozambican forces, FPLM, in Inhambane Province have killed 16 armed bandits during operations carried out last Sunday in the localities of (Sitica) and Gotite, in the Morrumbene district. Our forces assaulted two bandit camps and captured 10 weapons, 16 cartridge clips, and other war materiel. This was revealed by our regional station in Inhambane citing the military command of that province.

New Railway Termed 'Act of Economic Warfare'

MB181726 Dakar PANA in English 1704 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Maputo, 18 Feb (AIM/PANA) — The new railway from Makapa in Swaziland to the South African town of Komatipoort is "another act of economic warfare by South Africa against Mozambique", a source in the Ministry of Ports, Railways and Shipping declared today to the MOZAMBIQUE NEWS AGENCY (AIM).

The railway was built with South African finance, and provides an alternative route to the sea for traffic from the South African province of Transvaal, and perhaps also for some Swazi traffic. Using the new line, the South Africans can send goods from the Transvaal to the South African port of Richards Bay instead of the Mozambican port of Maputo.

The ministry spokesman told AIM that in the long term the new line could have major economic implications for Mozambique. "But currently it doesn't make much difference since South Africa is hardly sending anything through Maputo anyway", he added.

South Africa has steadily reduced its use of Maputo port since Mozambican independence in 1975, in breach of agreements stipulating that Maputo is the natural port for Transvaal traffic. Between 1974 and 1984, South African use of Maputo declined by 84 per cent. At its height, South African traffic passing through the port amounted to more than six million tonnes per year. The current figure is little more than a million tonnes.

AIM's source said, however, that he did not believe that the new line would affect Swaziland's use of Maputo.

SOUTH AFRICA

P.W. Botha Meeting With Church Leaders 'Confirmed'

MB201001 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1000 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Cape Town, Feb 20, SAPA — A delegation of influential churchmen met President P.W. Botha in Cape Town today in an urgent mediation effort on the deteriorating situation in Alexandra near Johannesburg.

At least 22 people have died in violence in the troubled township this week.

The South African Council of Churches [SACC] delegation, including Bishop Desmond Tutu and the Reverend Beyers Naude, entered Tuynhuis, the president's residence in the city, at 11.15am, less than an hour after flying to Cape Town from Johannesburg.

The delegation requested the meeting yesterday but had not had a reply by this morning. We hope to see him today, Dr Naude, SACC general secretary, said when the delegation arrived at D.F. Malan Airport.

But a meeting was confirmed soon afterwards when Dr Naude telephoned President Botha's office from Dr Allan Boesak's office in Bellville South.

Bishop Manas Buthelezi and Mr Mke Beea, an Alexandra community leader, are also in the team that was met at the airport by Dr Boesak.

Dr Boesak and the Rev Lionel Louw, chairman of the Western Province Council of Churches, are to join the delegation to Mr Botha.

We have been told that 80 people have died so far. We have not confirmed this figure yet but we are concerned about the situation and want to see the state president, said Dr Naude.

Dr Boesak, who was refused permission to enter Alexandra yesterday, said the delegation was trying to see President Botha to press upon him the urgency of the situation related to Alexandra and the rest of the country.

Bishop Tutu said: We are prisoners of hope — and hope to see the state president. We hope he will realise we are not here for kicks. We are here because we believe the issue we want to discuss is urgent.

Botha 'Unable To See' Churchmen

MB201237 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1236 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Cape Town, Feb 20, SAPA — A spokesman for the office of the state president confirmed this afternoon that a delegation of the SA Council of Churches [SACC] had arrived at Tuynhuis today seeking an appointment with President Botha, but that he had been unable to see them.

The spokesman said the president had asked the deputy minister of defence and of law and order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, and senior officials of his department to hold talks with the delegation and two hours of discussions had ensued.

The spokesman said that due to the short notice given by the delegation of their intended visit and the president's heavy schedule, it had not been possible for him to see them himself.

The delegation left Cape Town by air shortly after the talks, having cancelled a hastily called press conference at the airport. The delegation told waiting media they would be reporting back in Johannesburg before making any statement. There was no indication of what they had discussed with Mr Vlok.

The party comprised Bishop Desmond Tutu, the Rev Beyers Naude, Dr Alan Boesak, Mr Mike Beea, chairman of the Alexandra Civic Association, Bishop Manas Buthelezi, president of the SACC, and the Rev Lionel Louw, chairman of the Western Province Council of Churches.

They told pressmen at the airport in Cape Town that a conference would be held at Khotso House, the Council's Johannesburg headquarters, tomorrow aternoon.

Churchmen Meet With Vlok

MB201214 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1200 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] A top delegation of church officials has met with Deputy Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok. The delegates had hoped to meet the state president but, as Patrick Cull reports, they were unable to see President Botha.

[Cull] The group, headed by Bishop Desmond Tutu, Dr Allan Boesak, Dr Manas Buthelezi, and Rev Beyers Naude, flew to Cape Town this morning, after asking for an urgent appointment with the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, to discuss the situation in the strife-torn townships. The group, however, were unable to see the president, but held prolonged talks with Mr Vlok at the state president's official residence, Tuinhuis. After the talks, Bishop Tutu said he was happy with the way things had gone.

Tutu, Naude, Boesak Urge Banks To Reject Reschedule

MB190923 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0922 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 19, SAPA — Three leading South African clergyman have sent a letter to the country foreign debt mediator, Dr Fritz Leutwiler, calling on the banks involved to reject the debt rescheduling proposals unless the government resigns and is replaced by government responsive to the needs of all South Africans.

The clergymen — Bishop Desmond Tutu, Anglican bishop of Johannesburg, Dr Beyers Naude, general secretary of the SA Council of Churches, and Dr Allan Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches — told an SACC Executive meeting yesterday they had jointly sent the letter to Dr Leutwiler "in their personal capacities" on February 8.

The letter reaffirmed a statement issued in October last year in which the clergymen "requested of the leading American banks that rescheduling of South Africa's debt should be made conditional upon the resignation of the present regime and its replacement by a government responsive to the needs of all South Africa's people."

The clergymen said they were aware that Dr Leutwiler would be presenting proposals in London tomorrow to South Africa's creditor banks "on the principle of take it or leave it."

"We have also noted the statements by Dr Leutwiler that the basis of his proposals would be the commitment of the present government to reform in South Africa."

They called on the banks involved in the rescheduling negotiations to reject the proposals and "to provide substance to such rejection in order to prevent further governmental stalling tactics.

"We propose that the banks should immediately 'freeze' all South African bank balances in their books, and refuse to effect any transfer instructions over these accounts. We also suggest that the banks should obtain court attachment of aircraft, ships and other South African assets, and apply the proceeds against South African indebtedness.

"In this respect, we agree with Dr Leutwiler's assessment that 'financial pressure will be more effective than economic sanctions' in bringing apartheid to its end.

"We trust that the banking community in the United States will concur that the crisis now confronting South Africa is a direct result of the government's political, financial and economic policies, and is proving destructive of their business interests."

The clergymen, who had not yet received a reply to their letter, said they "together with other church leaders, offer our services as facilitators to ensure the transfer of office to a government committed to the goal of democracy."

"We are of the view that such a government must involve the participation of recognised black leaders, and necessitates the immediate release of all political prisoners, the return of exiles and the lifting of banning orders on all banned political organisations," the letter to Dr Leutwiler said.

The letter said the clergymen recognised that "the technical implications of the debt rescheduling are beyond the sphere of our competence as religious leaders," but noted that "Dr Leutwiler's proposals are reportedly based upon unsubstantiated assurances of reform."

They had warned "on many occasions that the so-called reform process in South Africa is designed to entrench rather than abolish apartheid, and that it would aggravate the violence, injustice and hatred which afflicts our country."

The January 31 address to Parliament by the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, and the subsequent "no confidence" debate — including the resignation of the leader of the opposition, Dr F. van Zyl Slabbert — had "regretfully" confirmed this judgment, they said.

"Any optimism concerning the government's real intentions has yet again been shown to be unfounded."

The clergymen said they hoped "that the future, post-apartheid South Africa will encourage the international financial community to resume its assistance towards the economic development of all the people of our land."

President's Council Discusses Reforms

MB191625 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1621 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Presidents Council, Feb 19, SAPA — One of the most significant changes taking place in South Africa was the "loosening-up" of social relations between black and white people, Mr F.G. Backman, a Labour Party member, told the President's Council [PC] today.

Speaking to a motion on unrest, introduced by the deputy leader of the PC, Mr Pen Kotze, Mr Backman said he was happy that the reforms taking place in South Africa were "real and relevant."

"There is nothing cosmetic about this. These reforms that are taking place have generated a force which not only creates demands for more reforms, but also for equality in all respects." The changes were for the better.

Referring to education, Mr Backman said that by removing racial barriers, parents would be given greater freedom in choosing with whom they wanted their children to associate.

"The new structures that will be created would be in keeping with the will of society," he said.

Mr Laurie Poorter, an NP [National Party] member of the committee for social affairs, said the present revolutionary climate in South Africa was the result of a well-organised campaign that had been raging for many years.

"The aim of those intent on causing an ungovernable situation is no secret to any of us nor to the authorities. Gradually over the last years, organisations such as the UDF [United Democratic Front] and their affiliates have been prospering in their task of undermining the good name of this country.

"They have done this with considerable support from agencies outside South Africa and in so doing, have caused doubts and anxieties. Their success has been further strengthened by the unbelievable anti-South African campaigns.

"If it were not for this distorted climate there would never have been a disinvestment campaign. Even if there were, it would have been laughed out of court.

"It now takes a visit from a serious investor to become acquainted with the true state of affairs in this country. Those that apply their judgment fairly and utilise their resources for real information don't plead for sanctions or disinvestment here," Mr Poorter said.

Mr J.G. Rennie, a PFP [Progressive Federal Party] member, said factors that culminate in unrest in 1984 included the raising of rents in black townships when unemployment was high. The government had also lost control of the economy since 1974 and blacks had been excluded from the tricameral Parliament.

The government was responsible for the "total onslaught" philosophy and resultant loss of confidence by investors in the late 1970's, the loss of jobs, and the resultant demands by us bankers for immediate repayment of loans.

The administration boards had also contributed to the unrest, Mr Rennie said.

It was significant that the same chief administrator was in control in Soweto in 1984 when there was relative calm in comparison to the Vaal. This man had also been administrator in the Vaal area in 1976. This demonstrated that sensitivity by the administrators could contain flammable situations.

"It does not surprise me that the development boards have virtually ceased to exist."

Mr Rennie said any shift to the right in government would "re-ignite tension." Only by removing apartheid laws could peace and calm return and police fulfil their proper role of protection in the community.

Mr D.P. de K. van Gend, an appointed member for the Cape Province, said the internal struggle for the upper hand between the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress was another aspect of the unrest.

The struggle was to be seen in the bitter clashes between United Democratic Front supporters and AZAPO [Azanian People's Organization] which, he said, acted as a front for the PAC.

Botha forces had one aim in mind: to destabilise the social order. "These forces imply the death of consensus politics."

Mr van Gend said there were may reasonable people who wanted to talk about the future of the country, but powers beyond their control prevented them.

"Only improved attitudes and channels of communication would isolate the radicals and allow a peaceful process to continue," Mr Van Gend said.

Mr I. Omar, the Solidarity representative, said people communicated on different channels in South Africa. When reforms were announced they had no effect because of the "different wavelengths" people were on. Referring to the tricameral system, he said: Any consensus sought within the parameters of a constitution that is not freely negotiated is deemed to be consent sought under duress."

Mrs Adrienne Koch, NP member for the Cape Province, said reform was never popular. Those who held power were happy with the power they had. Mrs Koch said she was in favour of scrapping apartheid and of equal opportunities but did not stand for socialism.

"We must stop throwing slogans around. We must stress that we want a civilized government."

The old slogan was "Would you let you daughter marry a kaffir" The new slogan was "Black president for South Africa."

Referring to the rightist and leftist propoganda onslaught on children in schools she said "Leave the children of this country alone."

President's Office Statement on Transcript Release

MB191329 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1236 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Cape Town, Feb 19, SAPA — It was normal and accepted international practice that there should be a record of important conversations held by heads of state, the state president's office said in a statement issued here today.

The state president, Mr P.W. Botha, had always honoured the confidentiality of private conversations, as those who had spoken to him over many years could testify. The way in which Dr Slabbert had revealed the content of their talks and his interpretation thereof, confirmed the necessity for such a record.

The full statement said: "The state president conducts hundreds of audiences annually on a wide range of subjects and with a large number of internal and foreign individuals and groups."

"It is self-evident and it is normal and accepted international practice, that there should at times be a record of certain important discussions in order that the state president can be informed of what he and those he had spoken to had said.

"The content and the follow-up actions which may possibly follow such conversations, for instance, had to be determined by reference to the content of the conversations.

"The nature of the record differs at times. Sometimes it is a recording of the conversation, and sometimes written notes.

"The state president honours the confidentiality of private conversations at all times as those who have talked with him over many years can thoroughly testify.

"The conversation of November 25, 1985 with the former leader of the official opposition fell into the category of important conversations of which the content needed to be fully recorded.

"The manner in which Dr Slabbert revealed the fact of the conversation and his interpretation of its contenct, confirms the necessity to keep records of such discussions.

"It therefore has the additional advantage that should a partner in a conversation later unilaterally break its confidentiality, or attribute words to the state president, or publish misleading versions of the talks, the state president can put the issue into perspective."

Indians Concerned Over Vlok Statement on Unrest

MB191344 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1336 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 19, SAPA — An incorrect claim by the deputy minister of law and order, Mr Adrian Vlok, that unrest in Alexandra was sparked by the shooting of an intruder in an Indian-owned shop endangered the lives of Indians in the area, the Wynberg Traders Association said today.

Mr E. Akoojee, chairman of the Wynberg Indian Traders Association, sent the following telegram in response to Mr Vlok's claim that unrest in the Alexandra area began when an intruder was shot by a nightwatchman at an Indian-owned shop.

"Your statement regarding Alexandra flareup refers. Serious factual error." [as received]

Jazz Supermarket in Kew, where a man was killed by the store security officer was owned by whites, not Indians, Mr Akajee said.

"Report having serious repercussion on the 200 Indian families living in the immediate area and endagers their lives," the telegram said.

"Kindly verify with local police in Alexandra and retract statement."

"Correction by SABC TV news and other news media essential.

The Indian community in Alexandra was "very worried" and had not opened their shops today, Mr Akoojee explained.

"We Indians have been trading in Wynberg for the last 60 to 70 years and we have had a very good relationship with the blacks here," Mr Akojee said.

He had asked a member of the local management committee to arrange for the matter to be taken up in Parliament.

"It's got to be settled as soon as possible," he said.

ANC Secretary General Departs for CPSU Congress

MB191845 Dakar PANA in English 1815 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Lusaka, 19 Feb (ZANA/PANA) — The African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) has pledged to intensify the armed struggle until South Africa is liberated from the racist regime.

Secretary general of ANC Mr Alfred Nzo said in Lusaka today that many Africans were dying in South Africa through the aggression committed by the Pretoria regime.

Mr Nzo said this before departure for Moscow in the Soviet Union to attend the 27th Congress of the Communist Party. The secretary general said his delegation will use the congress to seek assistance from the Soviet Union to free South Africa from the racists.

He said the congress will be meeting in the background of an aggravated situation especially by the United States of America contrary to the peace imitiative being undertaken by the Soviet Union.

Transkei Assembly Elects Ndamase New President

MB191202 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] The National Assembly of Transkei has unanimously elected Paramount Chief Tutor Nyangelizwe Vulindlela Ndamase of western Pondoland as the new president of Transkei. He succeeds Paramount Chief Kaiser Matanzima, who held the office since 1979.

Paramount Chief Ndamase, who is the third Transkeian president since independence in 1976, will be sworn into office in Umtata cathedral at 1100 tomorrow morning. After that he will address the nation at Independence Stadium in Umtata.

Paramount Chief Ndamase, who was nominated a member of the National Assembly, was born on 11 January 1921. He is the son of the late Paramount Chief Victor Photo of west Pondoland.

At a ceremony at the presidential palace this morning, President Matanzima said farewell to the Transkeian cabinet.

Transkei Defense Force To Get Airborne Capability

MB181615 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1607 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Mabopane, Feb 18, SAPA — Transkei's defence force will soon have the airborne capability to deal with any emergency, Paramount Chief Kaiser Matanzima said yesterday. He was making his last official appearance as commander in chief of the armed forces before stepping down from the presidency this week.

President Matanzima announced that major works programmes had included the construction of two bases at Port St Johns, one in Maluti and one in Butterworth. The programme was also included in the expansion of the Umtat base, a school of infantry and an entire village for defence personnel.

President Matanzima said Transkei required a stable platform which would encourage and inspire foreign investors who were usually the foundation of any country's prosperity.

The president also thanked the outgoing commanding officer of the Transkei defence force, Gen Ron Reid-Daly, for what he had done to help train and build the force. He said Transkei soldiers should rally round the new head of the country's defence force, Gen Zondwa Mtirara.

Alexandra Death Toll Rises To 'At Least' 23

MB200815 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0754 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 20, SAPA — The death toll in Alexandra rose to at least 23 and possibly 27 according to residents, with the death in hospital of Mrs Johanna Hlubi, 82, who had earlier been set on fire at the height of the unrest after she was accused of being a witch. She died last night.

Today senior church leaders accompanied by the chairman of the Alexandra Civic Association [ACA] flew to Cape Town hoping for urgent consultations with, among others, the minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange.

Last night tension in the troubled township reached such alarming proportions tha Progressive Federal Party MP, Mr David Dalling, was called from his home to investigate allegations that police were conducting house raids and taking children.

In defiance of the "raid," groups of residents tried to get everybody to the local stadium so that "if they shoot one, they must shoot us all and if they arrest one, they must arrest us all."

Police denied any arrests took place. They assured Mr Dalling and a resident's delegation led by ACA chairman, Mr Mike Beea, security forces in Alexandra would keep a low profile.

People alleged at least three residents were arrested hours later. The arrests bring to at least 10 the number of people said to have been detained in the last 24 hours. Among them was Mr Linda Twala, one of the key figures behind Tuesday's huge meeting which restored relative calm to the township. Policemen living in the township were evacuated yesterday.

The ACA delegation and Mr Dalling were told by senior riot police officers it was possible people claiming they saw house raids actually saw the evacuation of the policemen.

The Anglican bishop of Johannesburg, Bishop Desmond Tutu, Dr Allan Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, Dr Beyers Naude, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, Dr Manas Buthelezi, and Mr Beea are hoping to see Mr Louis le Grange and his deputy, Mr Adriaan Vlok, in their Cape Town offices today. The group would also brief the PFP on the situation in Alexandra.

For the fourth successive day today there was no schooling in the township as pupils said they would not attend classes until all their detained "comrades" were released.

Policeman Absolved From Blame in Student's Death

MB192028 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2021 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Paarl, Feb 19, SAPA — A police officer was today absolved from criminal blame by the Paarl magistrate in connection with the death of a university student during unrest last year.

Mr J.H.D. Rossouw absolved senior police officer Lt-Col Oosthuizen this afternoon after an inquest lasting two days. The inquest was held on Mr Adri Aaron Faas, an 18-year-old law student of the University of the Western Cape, Bellville.

Col W. Oosthuizen, chief of the CID [Criminal Investigations Division] at Paarl, said he fired a shot at youths who threw a burning rubbish bin in front of a police vehicle in Klein Drakenstein Road in Paarl on August 28. He said he had aimed low as he fired birdshot at the youths with a private single shot, single barrel shotgun, "a weapon less effective than official police weapons."

As he fired, however, Mr Faas bent down as if to pick something. He said it was unusual and exceptional for a person to die of a wound caused by birdshot. He had fired low to minimise injuries, he said.

Mr Roussow's verdict was that Mr Faas had died of a bullet wound which damaged the brain. He found that Col Oosthuizen had not cominitted an act or omission which made him liable for prosecution.

Police Use Teargas During Squatter Camp Unrest

MB191434 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1433 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Knysna, Feb 19, SAPA — Police used teargas and shotguns to disperse crowds during unrest at Witlokasie, a squatter camp at Concordia near Knysna. It was the first recorded incident of unrest in the township in the wave of disturbances nationally.

Police said today that violence broke out about 4pm yesterday when a bus and a private vehicle were set alight. Police are understood to have patrolled the area and about 9pm a police vehicle was stoned. Slight damage was caused and police used teargas to disperse the crowd.

According to police, at 10.15pm a private home was petrol-bombed and slightly damaged. About five minutes later police were stoned, apparently while on their way to the burning house. Teargas and shotgun fire were used to disperse the crowd, but police do not believe there were any injuries.

'Massive' Cleanup Operation in Guguletu

MB192020 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2019 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Cape Town, Feb 19, SAPA — A massive combined police and army swoop, described by police as a "clean-up operation," was launched in Guguletu today after police were fired at and several vehicles were stoned yesterday.

Heavily-armed troops, members of the SAP and railways police, manned two road blocks — one at the beginning of NY108 and the other at the junction of NY108 and Old Klipfontein Road. About 20 casspirs, buffles and police vans were involved in the operation and a police helicopter circled overhead.

Hundreds of troops and police lined NY108, thoroughly searching vehicles, pedestrians and some houses in the area.

Lieutenant Attie Laubscher, police liaison officer for the Western Cape, said today: "I can confirm that a security force operation took part in a small part of Guguletu, in the area of NY108 and Klipfontein Road.

"The reason for the operation is the sporadic stone-throwing and petrol bomb attacks which have taken place over the last few days. It is a normal clean-up operation. Several hundred soldiers and police are involved in this combined operation, which began at 2pm today."

Violence Breaks Out in Mabopane 19 Feb

MB200940 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0938 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Pretoria, Feb 20, SAPA — Violence broke out in Mabopane yesterday after a week of calm in the area.

Two Bophuthatswana transport holdings buses were extensively damaged after they were stoned. Attempts to set them alight failed. The superintendent's offices were also gutted after being petrol-bombed.

Bophuthatswana police opened fired to disperse groups of youths who had earlier disrupted classes at schools. No injuries were reported.

In the afternoon the situation was quiet but tense in the township and police and the South African Defence Force continued to patrol the streets. It was not clear whether pupils would return to school today.

500 Rylands Pupils Boycott School, 'Scab' Teachers

MB192018 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2014 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Cape Town, Feb 19, SAPA — About 500 Rylands senior secondary pupils today refused to enter their classrooms in protest at the presence of 14 "scab" teachers who replaced 11 teachers dismissed by the Indian Department of Education and Culture last year.

About 11am two police vans arrived and a police video camera crew filmed the pupils as they sat in the schoolgrounds. Later, the pupils marched around the school building and the 14 teachers left after being advised to do so for their own safety, a source at the school said. A police spokesman said police had maintained a "low-profile" presence and did not enter the school premises.

A pupil spokesman said it was the first time this year that pupils held a full day protest outside classes and on school property. "Pupils met and were all in favour of this demonstration." He said senior pupils had refused to be taught by the "scabs" since the school year began and are demanding the reinstatement of the dismissed teachers.

Youth on Rampage Over Biko Statue by Randfontein

MB201150 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1150 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Randfontein, Feb 20, SAPA — Youths in Mohlakeng township, near Randfontein, went on the rampage early this morning after a statue of black consciousness leader Steve Biko was allegedly knocked off its pedestal by security forces last night.

Eyewitnesses said the statue — apparently a bust of Biko erected in a park in the township — was not damaged during the incident, which occurred at about 10pm.

The angry youths set fire to an administration board vehicle and overturned a tractor in the early hours of this morning, SAPA's correspondent reports.

A Mohlakeng resident, Mrs Jane Molefe, said security forces stormed into her house and accused her of knowing who was responsible for the burning of the vehicle. She said she and her daughter Hermina were taken to the Randfontein police station, where their names and addresses were taken. They were later released and taken home.

Police Issue Latest Unrest Situation Reports

Late 19 Feb

MB191735 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1731 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 19, SAPA — Following is situation report on unrest to 7pm:

"In Eden Park near Alberton a 14-year-old coloured female and an 11-year-old coloured boy sustained slight injuries when a Russian handgrenade detonated in their presence this afternoon. The handgrenade was picked up by one of the children and was presumed left in the area of the mobile police station in Eden Park where another handgrenade was hurled at police two days ago.

"The SAP would like to make an urgent appeal to members of the public, parents and children, to be on the look-out for this kind of thing. Suspicious objects should never be picked up by kids and should be reported to police immediately.

"Other unrest:

"Eastern Transvaal: Witbank. In Ackerville, a petrol bomb thrown at a private home. Extensive damage caused.

"Western Transvaal: Ikageng near Potchefstroom: A black male under 18 arrested after a stonethrowing attack on the SAP.

"Soweto (WWR [Witwatersrand]): Various incidents of looting and robbing of delivery vehicles took place. A 20-year-old black man was wounded and arrested by the SAP when a delivery vehicle was set alight.

"East Rand: Near Tembisa a delivery van set alight and two black males arrested by police after the incident.

"Port Natal: Stone throwing incidents at SAP occurred at Isipingo and KwaMashu. In Umlazi, a black male was arrested during a stone throwing incident at a school.

"Attridgeville near Pretoria: The burnt body of a black male was found by the SAP.

"In Mamelodi, also near Pretoria, a private vehicle was set alight."

End report.

Early 20 Feb

MB200613 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0607 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 20, SAPA — Here is the South African Police unrest report as at 8am February 20 issued by the SAP Public Relations Division in Pretoria.

"The following incidents of unrest were reported overnight:

"At Mitchells Plain, a number of buses and a police vehicle were stoned. Minor damage was caused.

"At Mohlakeng near Randfontein, a private vehicle was destroyed by arsonists.

"In Soweto (Witwatersrand), a bus, a number of private vehicles and a delivery vehicle were damaged by stonethrowers. In the same area, a delivery vehicle and a shop were looted.

"In Guguletu, a bus was stoned. Two black women were injured by the stonethrowers.

"At Munsieville, on the West Rand, a beerhall was extensively damaged by arsonists.

"At Zwide, near Port Elizabeth, a beerhall was extensively damaged by arsonists.

"At New Brighton, a black residential area near Steynsburg in the south-western cape, 2 private vehicles were damaged by stonethrowers and a SAP vehicle was petrol-bombed. A policeman was injured in this attack. The police dispersed the mob with birdshot seriously injuring a man.

"At Chesterville near Durban, a hut was set alight. Two black women died in the blaze."

Report ends.

WEEKLY MAIL's 14-20 Feb 'Apartheid Barometer'

MB170546 Johannesburg WEEKLY MAIL 14-20 Feb 86 p 4

["Apartheid Barometer"]

[Text] *1985 Detentions (Detainees Parents Support Committee [DPSC] figures)*

Security Detentions:

Where they took place:	1985	1984
Transvaal	262	420
Natal	100	67
Western Cape	197	7
Eastern Cape	75	96
Northern Cape	43	-
Orange Free State	49	5
Transkei	1848	407
Ciskei	99	123
Bophuthatswana	6	1
Venda	-	1
Places Unknown	958	22
Total	3637	1149

Legislation used:	1985	1984
Section 28, ISA	8	28
Section 29, ISA	406	280
Section 31, ISA	25	18
Section 50, ISA	1168	72
Homelands Legislation	1953	532
Unknown Legislation	77	219
Total	3637	1149

Targets of Detention	1985	1984
Scholars/students/teachers	27.0 %	50.7 %
Community/political workers	28.1 %	19.7 %
Trade unionists	3.4 %	4.4 %
Clergy and church workers	1.2 %	1.0 %
Journalists	2.2 %	0.6 %
Other/unidentified	38.1 %	23.6 %

According to the DPSC the prime targets were the leadership of the UDF [United Democratic Front] and its affiliates and the membership of COSAS [Congress of South African Students] up to the time of its banning.

Fate of known 1985 detaineees (with the exception of most of the Transkei detainees) on January 31, 1986:

	Numbers	Percentage Released Without Charge
Within 48 hours	70	7.9
After longer period		
Charged, awaiting trial	106	12.0
Charged and convicted	16	1.8
Died in detention	1	
Escaped from detention	3	
Still in detention	151	17.1
Transferred to emergency detention	74	8.4

So far about 60 percent of known 1985 detainees have been released without being charged and this figure is expected to rise in the coming months. Only 14.7 percent have been brought to court and 1.8 percent have been convicted.

Emergency detentions, 1985		
Transvaal	3117	42.3 %
Eastern Cape	3151	42.8 %
Western Cape	1093	14.9 %
Summary of detentions, 1985		
Under security legislation	3637	
Under emergency regulations	7361	
Total	10998	
Still in detention 31/1/86		
Under security legislation	294	
Under emergency regulations	335	
Total	629	
Emergency Detentions 21/7/85 - 6/2/86		
Number detained	7764	
Number released	7492	
Number still held	272	
Number detained 1/1 - 6/2	403	
Number detained 30/1 - 6/2	146	

Political Arrests

The DPSC estimates that about 25,000 people were arrested in 1985 on charges of public violence, arson, malicious damage to property, intimiation, terrorism, treason, etc, bringing the total number of detentions and political arrests to about 36,000. It had become an impossible task to record and monitor the progress of such trials, so there is no way of knowing how many of those arrested were brought to court and the outcome.

This week's list of banned books will appear in next week's barometer.

Press Examines Current Issues, Problems

[Editorial Report] **Reform Not To Please Outsiders**
Pretoria *DIE TRANSVALER* in Afrikaans on 18 February says in an editorial on page 14 that "the good news brought back by Foreign Minister Pik Botha following his talks with European leaders is that finally there are signs of recognition of the positive elements of the government's reform initiatives." The observation that European leaders are maintaining a 'wait-and-see' attitude can be interpreted as an indication that European leaders want to see how the state president's blueprint will be put into practive. "The 'wait-and-see' situation is equally a test for those European countries. The bottom line is that the reform process is not being initiated to please the outside world.

Language Change Blamed for School Failures

Johannesburg *DIE VADERLAND* in Afrikaans on 18 February says on page 4 that the high failure rate in black education is caused by changing the medium of instruction to English or Afrikaans in the fifth year. The Human Sciences Research Council says that students cannot master the new language at that stage, leading to a high failure rate, communication problems between student and teacher, and a high dropout rate.

Government Spending Rises

Johannesburg *BUSINESS DAY* in English on 18 February reports on page 1 that South African Government expenditures for January 1986 were 30 percent higher than in January 1985. "The cumulative expenditure in the first 10 months of this financial year is 23 percent above last year's spending levels." Figures published in the "Government Gazette" showed total spending at R26.68 billion. "Revenue figures are also comfortably ahead of last year's levels, so that it is unlikely that the deficit before borrowing will differ too much from the budgeted R2.97bn."

President Urged To Deliver Reforms

In an editorial on page 6 *BUSINESS DAY* comments on President P.W. Botha's promised reforms and notes: "At best — particularly since his damaging repudiation of Pik [Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha] — the President has done nothing more than buy SA a little more time." This may be important in terms of the bankers' meeting this week, but "P.W. must realise that he has to deliver — not merely doing what has already been promised, but also continuing with a programme of reform in the light of changing needs."

Statistics on Unrest Deaths

A report on page 4 of *THE STAR* in English on 19 February says unrest statistics released in Parliaemnt indicate police action has resulted in the death of at least 209 youths and the injury of 703 others. "Mr le Grange said 10 policemen had been prosecuted but none found guilty in connection with deaths during the urnest." The article also reports that Minister of Defense Magnus Malan "declined to give details on how many national servicemen were used in combating the unrest as he said the information could be misused by an organisation campaigning against military service."

Private Schools Admit 'Non-Whites'

A SAPA report on the same page says 143 out of 170 English-medium, private primary or high schools under the control of provincial education departments admitted 'non-white' pupils last year. PFP member Ken Andrew commented that the figures indicate "'the Government should grant all schools the right to decide for themselves who they want to admit.'"

Public 'Badly Informed'

"Unless the state of emergency was lifted soon, irreparable damage would be done to the public's right to know what was happening in South Africa, the editor of the *CAPE TIMES*, Mr Tony Heard," told an audience at the University of the Witwatersrand. A report on page 7 says Heard said "restrictions placed on the media by the Government had left the public badly informed."

Botha in 'World of Illusion'

Commenting on the transcripts of the conversation between President Botha and Frederik van Zyl Slabbert on 25 November, *THE STAR says on page 18 that Botha's comment that he has* 80 percent of whites behind him, "suggests Mr Botha is living in a dangerous world of illusion. No opinion poll since his coming to office has given his government 80 percent white support — let alone the 50 percent support among blacks he also claimed." It is also clear from the transcripts that Botha "emphatically repeated stipulations about whites retaining their own lifestyle, education, language, residential areas 'and the wealth (they have) accumulated.' These cast extra doubt on his reformist intentions."

Union Worker House Bombed

Johannesburg *SOWETAN* in English on 19 February reports on page 2 that the house of Lekgoro Dau, branch organiser of the South African Allied Workers Union, was attacked with petrol bombs in Atteridgeville Tuesday. The report also says the Pretoria area committee of the United Democratic Front (UDF) has released a statement blaming the SADF and the police for the escalation of violence in the townships. "'The army and the police have become a law unto themselves. Apartheid agents are busy making our lives unbearable,'" the committee said. The statement urged all black policemen and councillors to resign.

ZAMBIA

Foreign Minister Receives GDR Deputy Minister

MB181957 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Professor Lameck Goma said today that Zambia fully supports the proposals by the Soviet Union to eliminate nuclear weapons from the face of the earth over a 15-year period before the end of the century. Speaking when visiting deputy foreign minister of the German Democratic Republic, GDR, Gerd Koenig, called on him at his office today, Prof Goma said Zambia welcomes the Soviet move to eliminate the deadly weapons. He said to ensure that mankind is assured of peace and stability there is need to support all efforts in their disarmament. He commended the GDR for working with Zambia for peace and stability to bring a new and equitable international order.

Kaunda Calls on West To Put Pressure on RSA

MB191900 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] President Kaunda has called on the West again to act more and put pressure on Pretoria to avoid an explosion in southern Africa. The president said Zambia's call to the West to put pressure on South Africa to end apartheid does not mean that he is anti-West, but that the West has the means to do it. Dr Kaunda was speaking at State House when the deputy foreign minister of the German Democratic Republic, Gerd Koenig, called on him. President Kaunda said if the Frontline States called on the Soviet Union to act in South Africa and it did so, the action would spark a third world war.

Mr Koenig said the German Democratic Republic is closely following developments taking place in southern Africa and stressed the need for cooperation to end it.

ZIMBABWE

SFRY Assembly President Arrives on Visit

MB170639 Harare Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] The president of the Yugoslav Assembly, Comrade Ilijaz Kurtesi, arrived in Zimbabwe last night at the head of a high-powered delegation. The delegation, which is on a 5-day trip, includes six members of the Yugoslav parliament.

Receiving the team the speaker of the House of Assembly, Comrade Didymus Mutasa, said the visit follows the one he made to Yugoslavia last year. Comrade Mutasa added that the trip serves to strengthen existing relations which were forged during Zimbabwe's liberation struggle.

Comrade Mutasa said the Yugoslav Government is assisting Zimbabwe with the construction of dams in Mashonaland West and due to further Yugoslav assistance, Mutare Technical College is under construction.

In reply, Comrade Kurtesi commended Zimbabwe for its achievements since independence. The Yugoslav delegation will visit a number of places, including Hero's Acre, during its stay.

Information Minister Discusses Role in Mozambique

MB191703 London BBC World Service in English
1515 GMT 19 Feb 86

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Zimbabwe forces have now been active in Mozambique in an offensive role against MNR guerrillas for some 8 months. According to the MNR, there are upwards of 12,000 Zimbabwean troops in Mozambique. Zimbabwe has of course had soldiers defending vital economic targets such as roads, railways, and oil pipelines for some time.

In Harare, BBC journalist Neville Arms talked to Nathan Shamuyarira, Zimbabwe's information minister, and asked him if the offensive role of Zimbabwe troops in Mozambique was part of a more general regional defense pact.

[Begin recording] [Shamuyarira] No, no, there is no defense alliance in the region. It's purely self-interest on our part to defend our pipeline, the road, and the railway that carries vital imports and exports to us from Beira to Mutare. It is in our interest to see that the bandits in Mozambique do not overrun that railway and, when we were asked by the Mozambican Government to assist them in patrolling the (?train), we readily agreed, but our presence there is purely for self-interest. When it appeared that the bandits were getting strong in the Tete Province, we were asked by the Mozambicans to go into a joint operation 2 months ago to flush them out and we did that.

[Arms] Are there areas that you might be willing to operate in if asked by the Mozambique Government?

[Shamuyarira] Well, that will be unlikely because the Mozambicans will not ask us to operate in areas in which our vital interests are not involved and we certainly want to restrict our involvement to the areas that are of national interest to Zimbabwe, namely the railway line to Beira.

[Arms] How many troops are there?

[Shamuyarira] We put in 4,000 troops at the beginning and we since increased them by another 1,000 and I think it is a total of about 5,000.

[Arms] It must be very costly for you to have to defend Zimbabwe from inside Mozambiqe. Do you feel that is what the MNR and South Africa want in order to weaken the Zimbabwe economy?

[Shamuyaria] Yes, we think that. That is part of the general strategy: to make our transport routes unsafe, push up the costs, but also, more importantly, to increase our dependence on South African routes because we have diversified our routes since independence and send more and more of our imports and exports goods through Mozambique, but the consistent attack of RENAMO bandits on the Chicuacuala railway line to Maputo put this line out of commission about 2 years ago and they then shifted their attention to the Beira line and, as I said earlier, we are defending that and obviously the cost — and this is what the South Africans want — but, more importantly also that we should continue using the South African routes, thereby increasing our dependence on them and we know recently what happened to Lesotho when the South Africans strangled that state by stopping goods coming up on the railway line and if we are dependent on the South African routes, we can then be vulnerable to attack by South Africa in the manner in which they attacked Lesotho. So it is a very important matter for us. [end recording]

Radio Truth: 'Hundreds' of ZNA Dying in Mozambique

MB181542 (Clandestine) Radio Truth in Ndebele
to Zimbabwe 1700 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] We greet you, dear listeners. In our program today, we wish to enlighten our listeners about the great danger facing our Zimbabwe National Army, ZNA, forces fighting in Mozambique. Radio Truth, the alert radio station that is listened to by the majority of Zimbabweans, is like a guard on a 24-hour shift. It can foresee events well before they happen, and today it is going to give you information about the great danger facing the ZNA troops in Mozambique.

From the very beginning, we insisted that our young men avoid conscription into the ZNA contingent bound for Mozambique. We advised each person to be on the lookout for coerced enlistment. However, if some persons did not heed our advice it is now their problem, because they are the ones who are going to get killed. On the other hand, as the war proceeds, the war deaths are the responsibility of the instigator of the war. Today, Radio Truth wants to inform the population about the impending danger. We hope that our message will be well received as we explain what Robert Mugabe is doing to lead the country into a mess.

Prior to the general elections of July 1985, Radio Truth urged Zimbabweans to withhold support from ZANU-PF, the party of the cock led by Robert Mugabe, because ZANU-PF officials had a strong urge to rekindle the flames of war, which would devour our brothers and sisters serving in the ZNA contingent deployed in Mozambique to prop up Samora Moises Machel's tottering regime. At that time, we also made it widely known to the public that the ZNA contingent service in Mozambique would be definitely wiped out by MNR forces, since our troops were engaged in a fight against the wishes and desires of the people of Mozambique.

After our announcements, we heard the top brass Robert Mugabe of ZANU-PF inform the public in quickly organized mass rallies that we at Radio Truth were telling lies. However, right now, the majority of the people in Zimbabwe have begun to realize on their own that Radio Truth did not lie about the upcoming events in Mozambique. Hundreds and hundreds of our brothers, our sons, in the ZNA have been killed in action in Mozambique. RENAMO, a party fighting against the heinous regime of Machel, has sent our boys to confused deaths. But Robert Mugabe and Ernest Kadungure strictly avoid making any press statement about the deaths of our soldiers in Mozambique. Occasionally, they will reveal to the press the names of senior commissioned officers killed in action in Mozambique. The names of junior officers and noncommisioned personnel killed in Mozambique are never made public.

In January this year, Major Judgemore Cheuka and Colonel Derick Fling Magama were killed by the MNR forces. Their deaths occurred after the helicopter in which they were flying had been shot down. Despite this, on 13 January Robert Mugabe publicly informed the nation that Maj Judgemore Cheuka and Col Derrick Flint had died in an accidental crash of their helicopter. Absolute lies! As proof that Mugabe was telling a lie, he never bothered to describe the details of the accident. The true story, dear listeners, is that these two commissioned officers were killed by RENAMO forces who had shot down their helicopter. Please disregard Mugabe's fables about the incident!

Dear listeners, there is an African idiom that says: To see once is to see twice. This means that a person must learn from experience. Robert Mugabe should have learned from the Cuban experience in Angola. UNITA is mauling those Cubans. However, Robert Mugabe is steadfast in his campaign to assist Mozambique militarily and so our brothers and sisters in the ZNA are pressed on to die in defense of a country that is not their own. Jose Eduardo dos Santos requested Cuban military assistance from President Fidel Castro of Cuba. He needed assistance against the UNITA forces. However, today the Cubans are dying like flies in Angola. The UNITA troops are crack shots. People are amazed at their expertise. President dos Santos is greatly worried about the UNITA onslaught. He spends sleepless nights over the issue. UNITA forces are shooting their way over many areas of Angola. Cubans are unable to leave the precincts of Luanda. UNITA forces are present at the very edge of that city. Upon arrival in Angola, the Cuban military officers assumed senior ranks in the army. The Cuban officers enjoy good salaries, but the children of Angola serving in the national army are being starved to death, paid a pittance!

Dear listeners, all the foregoing conditions are caused by the principles of Marxist-Leninist communism followed by Dos Santos. In Zimbabwe today there are many things that are unwanted by the majority of the people of Zimbabwe, but Robert Mugabe has forced the people to agree to his designs. Listeners, if you do not wish to be coerced into the communist society firmly pursued by Robert Mugabe and his party, please resign from ZANU-PF. To our people serving in the ZNA, we say: If you do not wish to go and die in some strange land in Mozambique, defending some confused issues, please help us by joining us to topple the Mugabe government. Mugabe's government rejoices at your needless death. Down with communism! Down with Marxist-Leninist socialism, greatly sought after by Robert Mugabe. Forward with the effort to uproot the government of ZANU-PF so we can enjoy true freedom in Zimbabwe!

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 FEBRUARY 1986

Downing of Iranian Airliner; Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi jets shot down an Iranian passenger plane 20 February as it was approaching Ahvaz on a domestic flight from Tehran, killing all on board, IRNA reported. IRNA and Tehran radio reported that the chartered Aseman airliner had been carrying approximately 40 people, including 4 Majlis deputies and Ayatollah Khomeyni's representative to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, Fadhlollah Mahalati. An Iranian Foreign Ministry statement broadcast by Tehran radio later condemned the "criminal act," adding that the airliner had been carrying several clergymen.

In Baghdad, an Iraqi military spokesman denied the Iranian allegation, claiming that Iraqi warplanes confined their attacks to military targets, INA reported. The Iraqi agency earlier reported that Iraqi fighters downed a "huge Iranian C-130 transport plane" in the Ahvaz area at approximately the same time Iran claimed it lost an airliner. In Ahvaz, control tower officials meanwhile told AFP that no civilian flights used Ahvaz airport.

In continued fighting in the south, Iraq claimed it "maintained the momentum" and continued to advance on the Al-Faw front, inflicting "grave losses" on Iranian forces, INA announced in separate reports. An Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio said that Iranian counterattacks against Iraq's southern column and VII Army Corps front were "all wiped out," and that 104 Iranians also died in an attempted attack in the East Basra sector. In the air war, the communique claimed Iraqi planes hit four supply ships and the Khorramshahr-Abadan bridge 19 February. An Iraqi military spokesman admitted that Iraq has lost 6 planes since 9 February while claiming that Iran has lost 14 planes, INA reported. The agency also cited an Iraqi commander's claim that Iran has suffered 50,000 casualties in the VII Army Corps sector since the start of the offensive.

In contrast, Iran claimed in an IRNA report that 50 Iraqi warplanes have been shot down since 9 February. An Iranian Joint Staff communique cited by IRNA also charged that 14 civilians were killed when Iraqi planes bombed Sardasht.

In related developments, Iran's acting foreign minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati arrived in Damascus to discuss the war with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, IRNA reported. In Kuwait, the National Assembly denounced the Iranian incursion onto Iraqi territory, charging that the Iranian attack is a "gross danger to the region" that "paves the way for foreign interference," Kuwait's *AL-QABAS* reported.

Lebanon-Israel

An IDF sergeant was killed in southern Lebanon 20 February during the search for the two kidnapped Israeli soldiers, Jerusalem radio reported, citing an IDF spokesman. The spokesman said that eight "armed terrorists" also died in the gun battle with an IDF force searching the village of Srifa. An Amal statement earlier reported by Beirut radio acknowledged that 9 Amal members were killed and 17 others wounded in clashes with the Israelis. In other reports Jerusalem radio disclosed that a fifth "terrorist" died in the battle in Haris 19 February and that 10 other "terrorists" died in clashes with army of southern Lebanon troops in the Jazzin area 17-19 February. Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio that the IDF search operation in southern Lebanon "will not ease up until it finds the traces of the two missing soldiers and those who kidnapped them are punished."

PLO-Jordan

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is currently meeting with Palestinian leaders in Baghdad to discuss the 19 February speech by Jordan's King Husayn on Jordanian-PLO relations, Radio Monte Carlo reported citing a PLO spokesman. The spokesman added that the PLO will issue a statement on the king's speech at the end of the meeting. The radio earlier reported that 'Arafat asked Palestinians not to adopt a stance on the king's announcement at present. Nonetheless, head of the PLO's Political Department Faruq Qaddumi said in remarks reported by MENA that the Palestinians "cherish" their "special relations with fraternal Jordan" and have "no disagreement" with that state. Qaddumi claimed in a speech to Palestinians in Tunis that the United States is obstructing the search for a just peace in the Middle East, and he called for the convening of an emergency Arab summit conference, MENA added.

In Cairo, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said Egypt is attempting to reconcile Palestinian and Jordanian views and is seeking to keep the peace process alive, MENA reported earlier. Meanwhile, Israel's Foreign Ministry said it viewed King Husayn's announcement not as an absolute break of relations by Jordan with the PLO but rather as a "separation period," IDF radio reported.

Libya-Chad

The agreement France and Libya signed on 16 September 1984 establishing a "red line" in Chad along the 16th parallel "is in no way binding on the Chadian people," according to a GUNT press communique broadcast by clandestine Bardai Chadian National Radio. Claiming that France's goal is to "partition or even erase Chad from the world map," the GUNT communique warned that France will be held responsible for "its gunboat diplomacy" and support for the "Ndjamena rebel group." In Paris, a French Air Force general said that the French bombing raid on the Libyan-built airstrip at Ouadi Doum in northern Chad 16 February put the airstrip completely out of action, AFP reported. Releasing photographs of bombs exploding on the runway, the French general stated that the airstrip was still unusable by warplanes 20 February. He also claimed that the Tupolev plane which attacked Ndjamena airport 17 February "could only have come" from the Libyan base at Sabha, the report added.

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Qaddumi Blames United States

NC201844 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Tunis, 20 Feb (MENA) — Faruq Qaddumi, alias Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO's Political Department, has stated that the PLO Executive Committee will study some of the points raised in yesterday's speech by King Husayn of Jordan. He added that the committee will issue a statement on this matter.

In a speech to a Palestinian labor meeting in Tunis today, Qaddoumi accused the United States of obstructing the search for a just peace in the region, of disregarding the time factor, and of ignoring the right of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland and their right to self-determination.

Qaddumi added that there is no disagreement with fraternal Jordan. Anyone who is trying to make out that such a disagreement exists is attempting to turn this issue into a media battle among the Arabs. He gave a warning against these attempts, the purpose of which is to tear the Palestinian people and leadership apart and cause further dissension among the Arabs.

Qaddumi emphasized that the right to self-determination is an absolute right of the Palestinian people. He pointed out that no one may claim that the Arab countries or any parties involved in the process are entitled to negotiate this right. Qaddumi stressed that the Palestinian leadership is also not entitled to abandon this right. All negotiations and talks must be limited by this factor.

Qaddumi went on to say: Our fundamental disagreement is with the United States. Israel is our enemy; we cherish our special relations with fraternal Jordan; But it is the United States that is causing problems over the definition of the Palestinian people's rights. He said: We are the ones to decide upon this matter. We are entitled to regain the lost rights for which we have been fighting for decades. Our legitimate rights include our right to self-determination, and our right to establish our own independent state within the framework of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. He continued: We recognize the two Security Council resolutions only on condition that the other resolutions regarding the Palestinian issue are also put into effect. Our answer to U.S.-Israeli disregard is the continuation of the armed struggle.

Qaddumi pointed out that the Americans want to bypass the PLO. They wish to see the Palestinian people disorganized and leaderless, so that they can tamper with their basic rights. He noted that the PLO has shown so much flexibility that it has become apprehensive of conceding too much.

Faruq Qaddumi said that an emergency Arab summit conference should be convened to discuss the current issues, so that a unified Arab stand could be adopted to enhance joint action.

In his speech, the Palestinian official praised Jordanian-Palestinian relations. He said that when all Arab countries closed their doors to the PNC meeting, fraternal Jordan welcomed it and hosted the meeting on its soil.

Touching on the question of coordination with Jordan, Qaddumi stated that the PLO had not reneged on its commitments to the resolutions that had been jointly adopted. He said that the resolutions were included in a joint working paper. This working paper approved all the UN resolutions pertaining to the Arab issue, on the basis of convening an effective international peace conference enjoying broad powers. He added that the paper emphasized the need for the recognition of the right to self-determination without foreign intervention and for the participation of the PLO on an equal footing with the other parties.

West Bank Figures Comment

JN201831 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1646 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpt] As part of the Palestinian reaction from inside the occupied homeland to the speech by Jordan's King Husayn last night on the Palestinian-Jordanian joint move and the reasons for the failure of the recent Palestinian-Jordanian talks from the Jordanian standpoint, Nabulus Mayor Zafir al-Masri affirmed that the Palestine question cannot be divided. He said that the Palestine question is an integrated issue as far as the Palestinian people are concerned, whether they are inside or outside the homeland. He said that under no circumstances can those inside be separated from those outside the homeland and that ignoring the PLO in any settlement will not lead to a just, permanent peace in the region. He said: As far as I am concerned, I cannot imagine that the Palestinians in the occupied land would accept what the PLO rejects.

Engineer 'Adnan Shuqayr, president of the agricultural engineers union in the West Bank, said: In my opinion, this recent move was expected. The PLO's rejection of Security Council Resolution 242 is its right as well as being a natural and logical stand. He said that the PLO would be relinquishing its rights by accepting this resolution. Moreover, the king's speech did not contain anything new. It merely indicated that all that had been taking place was mere maneuvers. The objective of Jordan and the United States was to pull the rug out from under our sole, legitimate representative, the PLO. We affirm that we in the occupied land stand by our representative, the PLO, and by the Palestinian legitimacy, under Brother Yasir 'Arafat, because it is the patron of our interests and our national, legitimate rights.

Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, Shafa 'Amr mayor and president of the regional committee of the Arab local authorities, said that the PLO derived its credibility and legitimacy from the Palestinians inside and outside the homeland. He said that the PLO is a loyal guardian of the Palestinian interest. He said that the Palestinians are the ones who decide on what they deem suitable and that there is no one who is more concerned about the Palestinian people's interests than the PLO. He said that the PLO decides on what it deems appropriate within the framework of the basic Palestinian principles, which it endorsed and to which it adheres. Our belief in the PLO is absolute.

Attorney Jamil 'Uthman Nasir, former president of the lawyers association on the West Bank, explained that the Palestinian people have chosen the PLO as their sole, legitimate representative and the party which is qualified to represent them and achieve their demands and national aspirations. Moreover, the Palestinian people have placed their complete confidence in the legitimate PLO leadership. He said that the PLO was and still is serious about the search for a just peaceful settlement and has exhibited great political flexibility by announcing its stands on and acceptance of UN resolutions. However, political flexibility does not mean reliquishing the inalienable and agreed upon rights based the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and their right to establish their own independent Palestinian state on their national soil.

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj said an encroachment on the PLO representation is unlikely as long as the Arab countries adhere to the Rabat summit resolutions adopted in 1974. Moreover, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination is a foregone conclusion.

'Arafat 'Surprised'

JN211129 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1100 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today reacted to King Husayn's 19 February speech announcing the suspension of Jordanian-Palestinian talks. In a telephone conversation with the newspaper *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*, 'Arafat said that King Husayn had surprised all by his speech and wanted to place Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's envoy and PLO envoy in Amman Hani al-Hasan before a fait accompli by delivering the speech prior to the arrival of the Egyptian and Palestinian envoys.

Asked about the future of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement which was signed in Amman in February 1985, 'Arafat said that he adheres to the bonds which link the destiny of both the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples. However, he added, everything depends on King Husayn's viewpoint regarding this agreement. He added that a special PLO committee is preparing a reply to King Husayn's speech and that the PLO leadership willmeet to discuss these developments, but this meeting may be delayed as the Arab countries are preoccupied with the Gulf war.

Arab League Committee Meets With Perez de Cuellar

JN201413 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1200 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] New York — The members of the Arab League seven-member follow-up committee held a meeting last night with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The seven-member committee delegation, which is headed by Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, comprised Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, Saudi state minister; Tahir al-Masri, Jordanian foreign minister; Sulayman Shahin, Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry under secretary; Mehdi Alaoui, Moroccan UN representative; and Muhammad Salam Basindah, YAR UN representative.

In a statement following the meeting, Tariq 'Aziz said that the meeting explained to Perez de Cuellar the Arab League's stand on the escalation of the Iraq-Iran war, particularly the recent Iranian aggression on Iraqi territory. He added that the committee recommended that the UN Security Council adopt a firm resolution leading to a comprehensive settlement of the dispute between the two countries to be based on the UN Charter and principles of international law.

Tariq 'Aziz pointed out that the UN secretary general showed an understanding of the Arab stand and that the UN Security Council is currently formulating a draft resolution on which prolonged delibrations will be held before voting on it at the Security Council.

In a similar statement, Perez de Cuellar expressed hope that his talks with the committee members would contribute to boosting efforts to find a peaceful solution to the dispute between Iraq and Iran.

KUWAIT

National Assembly Issues Statement on Gulf War

GF201640 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 19 Feb 86 p 4

[Text of Kuwaiti National Assembly statement issued following the conclusion of its closed session on 18 February]

[Text] After the National Assembly listened to the government's statement on the dangerous developments of the Iraq-Iran war, the assembly confirmed the contents of the previous statement issued by the National Assembly and the government on 11 February. While the assembly confirms support for the contacts currently being held by the government to contain this destructive war and prevent its evils and hazards from harming the region, the assembly stresses its denunciation of the recent Iranian incursions into the territories of fraternal Iraq, which constitutes a gross danger to the region as whole and paves the way for foreign interference.

During the current critical circumstances which our region is passing through, the assembly affirms the need to ensure cohesion and bolster the internal front to ward off any danger that threatens the homeland. This can only be attained by making every citizen shoulder his responsibilities toward his country and preserve it from the dangers and the rumors designed to harm its power and cohesion.

As the assembly values the contacts undertaken by the government with the fraternal and friendly countries, it hopes that these contacts will continue to ensure protection and safeguard the region. The assembly and the government agreed to jointly follow up the developments in the region and to exchange views.

OMAN

Senegalese Official Arrives With Message

GF201636 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Haj Moustapha Yarang, envoy of the Senegalese president and head of the Islamic Progressive Union, arrived in Muscat today carrying a message to His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf.

PDRY

Salim Salih Muhammad Addresses Al-Dali' Rally

GF200910 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
0330 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] A massive popular demonstration was held in Al-Dali' District yesterday in which all toiling sectors of the people — workers, peasants, soldiers, and students — participated. They carried expressive posters and the portraits of the struggling martyrs who were martyred in the unsuccessful 13 January coupist plot carried out by the schemer 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his bloody gang. The demonstration was crowned by a mass rally and speech attended by brothers Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and secretary of the YSP Central Committee; Colonel Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, candidate member of the YSP Political Bureau and minister of defense; and a number of the brother members of the YSP Central Committee and governorate officials.

Amid a storm of applause, brother Salim Salih Muhammad spoke to the massed crowds. He greeted the high struggle and revolutionary spirit of the district's masses. He affirmed that the YSP and the revolution's government will remain loyal to our valiant heroes who fell on bloody 13 January so that the revolutionary line would be victorious. Foremost among these is the martyr struggler 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, Salih Muslih Qasim, and 'Ali Shayi' Hadi.

He conveyed to the masses in the district the greetings of the YSP Central Committee and Political Bureau on the victory which our party and people have achieved. He said: This district, and other districts in the governorate, have had the honor of actively contributing to the achievement of this victory. You stood one row behind another with your hands on the trigger in order to foil this conspiracy, to destroy its instigators, and to achieve victory. He said that this proves the elevated political level of the strugglers and masses in the governorate, their great revolutionary vigilance, and their loyalty to the YSP and its collective leadership. He said that all these qualities have been used in the nationalist and class struggle, beginning with the popular resistance against the British and their agents in 1947, 1948, and 1959, and passing through the contribution to the defense of the glorious 26 September, and [word indistinct] the armed revolution on 14 October [word indistinct] the pan-Arab front, consolidating national stability, and rejecting rightist and leftist opportunist deviations which were aimed at harming the revolution's and party's policy line.

Brother Salim Salih Muhammad reviewed the dangers and dimensions of the abortive coupist plot and past actions carried out by the bloody coupist clique. The coupist clique did this to void our revolution's progressive significance, to usurp authority individually by deviating from the course of our progressive system and moving toward capitalism, which cannot possibly bring to our people anything but misery, persecution, and tyranny. This clique used revolutionary terms which concealed a flagrant hostility to the heroes of scientific socialism. He ['Ali Nasir Muhammad] developed a media organ which applauded him. He also violated laws and suspended many others. He acted presumptuously toward the YSP's program and its internal rules. He supported and encouraged consumer trends in society, and created [word indistinct] and bureaucratic groups in the party, and in administrative and military systems. He encouraged the sabotaging of public property, disputes, and bribery, buying off weak-spirited people and turning them into mercenaries. He said that the hopes and ambitions of the conspirator 'Ali Nasir have failed by virtue of the vigilance and awareness of the YSP party members whose destiny is linked to the interests and future of the workers, peasants, and toilers in our country, [words indistinct] the heroes of scientific socialism, and the awareness, cohesiveness, and courage of the military and security institutes and [words indistinct] the party's principles.

Brother Salim Salih Muhammad pointed out that the organization of party and government affairs has begun and also repairs to the damage caused by the scheming clique in various fields.

Brother Salim Salih Muhammad called on the masses and the institutions to organize initiatives and collect donations to rebuild and repair what has been destroyed in the capital Aden by the scheming gang of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad.

He expressed satisfaction with the fraternal stands adopted from the very first moment against any foreign intervention by our brothers in the northern part of the homeland, foremost of whom is brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress. He asserted that the dialogue aiming at providing the appropriate conditions and circumstances to achieve national unity on peaceful and democratic foundations will continue.

He greeted the efforts made by the brothers in Syria, Algeria, Libya, and the PLO, and their solidarity with our people from the very first moment of the unsuccessful coupist conspiracy. He affirmed the continued joint struggle in order to confront imperialist and Zionist conspiracies and provocations against our Arab peoples.

He affirmed the relationship of the one trench between the PDRY and socialist Ethiopia and the continuation of the struggle relations based on the friendship and joint cooperation agreement.

He highly valued the supportive stands adopted by the brothers and friends in the difficult circumstances through which we are living, foremost of whom is the friendly USSR.

In conclusion, he asserted that we will continue to adhere to our foreign policy as outlined by the YSP documents and which is based on peaceful coexistence and internationalistic solidarity in order to avert wars, hotbeds of tension, and for the sake of achieving peace in the region.

During the rally, the secretary of the YSP organization in the district made a speech. He reviewed the courageous stands of the district's citizens in confronting the 13 January bloody plot. He reaffirmed the continued struggle to eliminate the damage caused by the scheming and bloody coupist clique, and to mobilize all energies and capabilities in order to carry out all the tasks with which the district is charged.

The son of the martyr struggler 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar also delivered a speech on behalf of the martyrs' sons. He said that we have lost our historical leaders. However, we have inherited a vanguard party, which is the leader of our progressive march.

Following that, brother Salim Salih Muhammad and his escort visited the houses of the martyr strugglers 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar; 'Ali Shayi' Hadi; and Sayil Muthanna. He offered condolences to their families. He affirmed that the party and the state will provide every care and attention to their families.

Chairman Receives Yemeni Diplomatic Corps Chiefs

GF201943 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the YSP Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the YSP Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, met tonight with the chiefs of our overseas diplomatic corps.

During the meeting, the brother chairmen of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and the Council of Ministers briefed the members of our diplomatic corps on the nature of the aborted coup conspiracy, led by conspirator 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his fascist gang, and the stages of its preparation and execution, its aims and dangerous dimensions upon the struggle of our people and the collective leadership of the YSP and our entire political, economic, cultural, and social state. They also explained the current situation and developments in the region, Arab and international arenas, and our country's stance on them. They affirmed the stance of the brothers and friends on the painful incidents our people faced and the diplomatic move required by this stage to clarify the coup conspiracy and its results.

Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas affirmed the need to deal with the brothers and friends in a clear way, according to our country's policy and stances. During this meeting a number of measures were taken to strengthen the role of our diplomatic corps overseas.

The meeting was attended by Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Political Bureau and foreign minister; a number of party and state officials; and directors of Foreign Ministry departments.

Minister Discusses Cooperation With Soviet Adviser

GF201736 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Salih 'Abdallah Muthanna, minister of transport, met in his office today with Comrade (Denar) Kadyrov, economic counselor at the USSR Embassy in Aden. During the meeting, they discussed cooperation between the two countries in the field of communications and transport and the means of expanding and strengthening it.

SAUDI ARABIA

Minister Calls for Resolution of Gulf War

GF201728 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] The United Nations, 20 Feb (SPA) — Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers, called on the UN Security Council to adopt a stringent measure by issuing a resolution that expresses the gravity of the continuation of the bitter dispute between Iraq and Iran and that provides a practical and strong momentum for the action shouldered by the UN Security Council to pave the way to terminate this war between Iraq and Iran.

In a speech he delivered during a UN Security Council session, he called on the council to adopt a stringent measure not only concerning the new escalation of the military operations, but also concerning endeavors to nullify peace efforts and to foil the efforts undertaken by the international organizations to end this war. He added: We hope that Iran and its responsible leadership — which is capable of reaching a cease-fire resolution and of acting according to Islamic principles so as not to shoulder the responsibility of continuing one of the greatest tragedies of the Islamic nation. [sentence incomplete as received]

He pointed out that Iraq announces repeatedly its readiness to cease fire to hammer out a peaceful solution through negotiations. He urged Iran to postively respond to the peace efforts sponsored by the UN Security Council, the UN secretary general, and all of the international organizations. He also called on Iran to implement the UN resolutions based on international border sovereignty to preserve the safety of the Iranian and Iraqi peoples and ensure the safety and security of the region.

He expressed hope that the international community would adopt a decisive resolution in its endeavors to end the war. He asserted that the goal behind these calls is to attain good for all of the region's people, foremost being the people of Iraq and Iran who have tolerated hardships in a war from which no one will benefit and for which there will be no victor. He then lauded the successful mediation which the UN secretary general had launched to end the war of the cities between Iraq and Iran, which was positvely accepted by both sides.

UAE

Papers on King Husayn's Divergence From PLO

GF201309 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 20 Feb (WAM) — Three UAE papers today comment on King Husayn's announcement concerning the discontinuation of political coordination and joint endeavors with the PLO leadership. They urge that this announcement by viewed within the perspective of having the right to one's view and demanded that there be no difference over the Israeli-U.S. danger which is lying in wait for everyone.

The newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* urges the opening of other doors through which the dearest and most precious principle, the principle of common destiny, is consecreated. It says: Since the difference in opinion does not spoil intimate relations, what has happened must be a matter of respect for views and not a matter of break in relations.

The newspaper *AL-WAHDAH* states that the Jordanian announcement did not surprise anyone, because anyone who has observed the trends of the Palestinian leadership throughout the past stage, must come to the conclusion that there is a ceiling to this political relationship.

The paper specifies the ceiling of this relationship by saying that there is a red line before the PLO, the features of which were drawn by the PNC, and which says that no Palestinian leader may cross it by recognizing Resolution 242, which denies the right of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

The paper notes that this red line prevents any Palestinian leader from recognizing Israel in return for admission that the Palestinian cause is merely a question of refugees.

AL-WAHDAH expresses hope that Jordanian-Palestinian relations will not deteriorate.

It says: "We hope that bilateral relations will not follow the road which leads to a break to avoid the negative impact which may occur.

The interests of the Jordanian and Palestinian people and their historical ties are more important than any other matter."

The paper states that the general Arab situation is bad and worsening. In such a situation we can no longer tolerate further shocks and new differences which weaken any already weak entity.

In conclusion, the paper asserts that the difference in political views is always likely. It expresses the belief that there is no disagreement over the Israeli-U.S. danger which lies in wait for everyone.

The newspaper *AL-FAJR* states that the fall of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement was expected because it faced a deadlock on the part of the Israeli side, which is supported by the United States.

The paper refers the responsibility for the fall of the agreement to the incapability to change the Israeli attitude "the aims of which the U.S. stand is an expression and a fulfillment."

The paper notes the basis on which the Amman agreement was founded, that is, the emphasis on the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination within a confederation between Jordan and Palestine.

It says: "When the agreement was signed, there was hope that it would succeed in persuading Israel to return the occupied territories in exchange for peace, which it alleges to be its desire, and in persuading the United States to change its stand toward the PLO and the rights of the Palestinian people, and exercise its influence over Israel to accept this proposed formula for a settlement as part of an international conference.

The paper expresses confidence that if King Husayn believes in trying, he will certainly appreciate the keenness of the PLO's leadership to not go into such an adventure, the results of which appear very clear even before the adventure begins.

Iranian President Sends Message to Counterpart

GF201157 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1105 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Feb (WAKH) — Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid, under secretary at the UAE Foreign Ministry, has received a verbal message addressed to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i. The message deals with the situation in the region and relations between the two countries.

The message was conveyed today by Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani, director general of the political affairs directorate for Arab and African countries who is currently visiting Abu Dhabi, during his meeting with Shaykh Hamdan.

The Iranian envoy briefed Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid on the outcome of the talks he held with officials in Kuwait, Qatar, and Bahrain and on the situation on the battlefront.

Further on Visit by Queen, Foreign Minister of Denmark

Mubarak, Queen Margrethe Meet

NC201556 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held talks with Queen Margrethe II of Denmark at the Presidential Palace in Al-Qubbah this morning. The Egyptian and Danish delegations also met for discussions, which were attended on behalf of Egypt by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Ambassador Muhammad Wafa' Hijazi, under secretary for Western European affairs at the foreign ministry; and Ambassador Mamduh Zaki, Egypt's envoy to Denmark. Denmark was represented by Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, Danish Ambassador to Cairo William Thune Andersen, the ambassador's assistant for commerical affairs, the Foreign Minister's private secretary, and other foreign ministry officials.

Following a 90-minute session of talks, Ambassador Wafa' Hijazi stated that Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid affirmed the importance of the European role in accelerating the movement for peace in the Middle East. He also said that European countries could help to reconcile the various viewpoints on this issue in such a way as to facilitate the holding of an international conference on the Middle East.

According to Hijazi, Dr 'Abd al-Majid emphasized the need to press for an end to the Gulf war. The foreign minister made a reference to the potentially destabilizing effects of Iran's activities in the region.

For this part, the Danish foreign minister registered his country's appreciation of the efforts being exerted by Egypt and President Mubarak to bring about a comprehensive Middle East settlement.

According to Ambassador Hijazi, the two delegations urged increased cooperation between the two countries in all fields. They also agreed on the need to increase Egyptian exports to Denmark in order to balance their bilateral trade account.

The foreign ministers of both countries were present at the meeting between President Mubarak and Queen Margrethe for part of the time, as were the Egyptian ambassador to Denmark and the Danish ambassador to Egypt.

Economic Agreement Signed

NC201622 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA) — Egypt and Denmark signed an economic agreement today according to which Egypt will receive a $47 million loan. Of this amount, $26 million is repayable on easy terms; the agreement allows for an interest-free grace period of 7 years. The loan, which is to be repaid within 25 years, will be used to finance the re-equipment and expansion of the Suez thermal power plant, which will cost $90 million. The Danish Government will contribute $47 million to this project, Sweden a further $28 million, the Nordic Investment Bank $10 million, and the Egyptian Electricity Corporation $5 million.

Jordan's King Husayn To Visit Cairo Soon

GF201221 Doha QNA in Arabic 1135 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 20 Feb (QNA) — Press reports today said that they expect King Husayn of Jordan to arrive in Cairo within the next few days to resume the talks that Egypt is holding with the PLO and Jordan. These talks aim at bringing closer the view of the Jordanian king and the Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat concerning future moves to convene an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

The UAE newspaper *AL-KHALIJ* today quotes diplomatic sources in Cairo as saying that the King Husayn-'Arafat talks held in Jordan recently did not achieve positive results. This made more likely the postponement of the tripartite summit due to be held by President Mubarak, King Husayn, and 'Arafat, provided that bilateral contacts will be held between 'Arafat and Mubarak, then between Mubarak and Husayn in order to bring closer the points of view regarding the next move.

Lutfi, Jordanian Ambassador Discuss Cultural Issues

NC201208 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA) — Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi received Jordanian Ambassador in Cairo Hasan Hamami in his office at noon today. They reviewed the proposed steps to implement the cultural cooperation protocol signed by the two countries. They also talked about accepting Jordanian students at Egyptian universities, and discussed the invitation extended to Tourism Minister Fu'ad Sultan to visit Jordan.

Opposition Parties React to Jordan-PLO Differences

NC201859 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1820 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 20 feb (MENA) — Egypt's opposition parties today expressed deep regret that coordination between Jordan and the PLO had been halted. The existing situation requires that a third party play the role of mediator between these two sides, party officials stated, noting that Egypt is the most qualified Arab country to undertake such a role.

Dr Nu'man Jum'ah, assistant secretary general of the Wafd Party, expressed his party's regret at this new development. Coordination between Jordan and the PLO had provided a ray of hope for achieving a solution to the Palestinian problem, he added.

Muhammad 'Abd al-Shafi, deputy leader of the Liberal Party, said that Egypt should endeavor to put an end to Jordanian-Palestinian differences.

Dr Hilmi Murad, deputy leader of the Socialist Labor Party, called on Arabs to bring the views of the PLO and Jordan closer together during the next stage. The sharp differences could lead to serious consequences for the region that will only benefit Israel, he warned. Dr Hilmi Murad added that Egypt is the only country currently qualified to play a mediating role to solve this crisis.

The NPUG Central Secretariat will meet on Saturday to discuss this serious development in the Palestinian issue. The Labor Party leadership and participants at an expanded session of the Wafd Party will also discuss this development in meetings scheduled for tomorrow.

Further Comment

NC210016 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA) — Both the *AL-AHRAM* and *AL-JUMHURIYAH* newspapers have expressed hope that dialoguue and consultations between Jordan and the PLO will continue. The papers also hope that the current limited differences will not expand and thereby intensify the scope of Arab dissension.

In Friday's issue, *AL-AHRAM* says that regardless of the motives and reasons that have prompted Jordan to terminate [inha' al-'amal] the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement [as received], and despite the plots and pressures that have prevented the moderate wing of the Palestinian leadership from proceeding along the road to peace, the ultimate loser will be the Palestinian cause. This cause is in danger of becoming obsolete with the passage of time.

The paper expresses the hope that Arab leaders will wake up and try to put an end to their differences. They must unite to confront Israel's expansionist schemes, which seek to separate the Palestinian people from their land, swallow up Palestinian soil, and penetrate into south Lebanon.

Egypt's appeal to stick to the historic opportunity for peace throughout 1985, the paper emphasizes, proceeded from its concern that failure to cling to such a chance would only lead to a situation like the present, the collapse of the agreement, and the failure to coordinate.

Commenting on the same subject, *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says that Jordan might have reasons that would justify King Husayn's declaration to halt coordination with the PLO and to terminate [as received] the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. As an organization leading the national revolution of an oppressed people, the paper adds, the PLO also has the right to carefully gauge its moves. After all, the paper notes, no one expects the stands adopted by a revolution with regard to such a decisive matter to be in harmony with those of a state.

The paper continues: Despite the fact that disagreement represents a healthy sign, the creation of problems and political battles is a serious Arab disease that must be eliminated as quickly as possible. In this respect, the paper calls on all the Arab parties concerned to bring their views closer together and put an end to contradictions among all Arabs, and not just between Jordan and the PLO.

The adoption of unified stands is the only choice possible, the paper affirms, [words indistinct] is a great risk that will affect the destiny of all Arabs and Palestinians from the ocean to the Gulf.

AL-AKHBAR Condemns Israeli Offensive in S. Lebanon

NC202308 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA) — The *AL-AKHBAR* newspaper has condemned the new Israeli offensive against the villages of south Lebanon in which planes, tanks, and gunboats are being used. The paper ridicules Israel's claims that the objective of the attack is to search for two missing Israeli soldiers, who have been kidnapped or captured in an ambush by Lebanese National Resistance men. The paper wonders: Is that a sufficient justification for Israel to storm 18 villages without any consideration for their inhabitants?

In its Friday issue, *AL-AKHBAR* emphasizes that these attacks indicate that Israel's occupation forces only withdrew in order to seek stronger positions. The paper goes on to say that this offensive refutes all Israeli claims about secure borders. It is also clear message to the world community that more effective deterrent measures must be found to counter this Israeli unconcern, in accordance with the rules and norms of international law. The paper calls on the Lebanese people to wake up and find a way to rescue Lebanon, instead of resorting to fighting out of sectarian arrogance and personal whim.

Ghali Returns From Francophone Conference

NC202229 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2155 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned home from Paris this evening. Minister Ghali led Egypt's delegation to the French-speaking countries' conference, which ended in Paris yesterday. In an arrival statement, Minister Ghali said that he will submit a report on the outcome of the conference to Persident Husni Mubarak. He added that the conference had been successful. African issues as well as ways of bolstering various forms of cooperation among African states were discussed during the meetings. He emphasized that Egypt was represented at the conference because of its interest in African problems and its contribution to the search for solutions to these problems. He added that he had held detailed discussions with the heads of the delegations taking part, and that the purpose of these talks was to explain Egypt's viewpoint on African issues and the situation in the Middle East.

Chadian Envoy Arrives With Message for Mubarak

NC202146 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
2100 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] (Mohamed Nouri), the personal envoy of Chadian President Hissein Habre, arrived in Cairo tonight on a visit to Egypt expected to last for several days. He told our correspondent that he has brought a message from President Habre to President Husni Mubarak. The message deals with the recent course of events in his country and Libyan intervention in Chadian internal affairs. The envoy said that large areas of Chadian territory are under Libyan occupation. Chad, he added, had asked that this issue and the recent developments in the country be discussed at the coming OAU foreign ministers meeting, which is due to open in Addis Ababa on Tuesday

AFP Cites Sources on Downed Iranian Civilian Plane

NC201830 Paris AFP in English 1711 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb 20 (AFP) — In Baghdad, officials said Iraq had shot down an Iranian C-130 Hercules transport plane in the Ahvaz region and an F-4 fighter-bomber in a sector occupied by the 7th Iraqi Army Corps. IRNA said a personal representative of Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni was also on board the Fokker Fairchild, which was reportedly hit at midday and exploded in the air a few kilometres (miles) from Ahvaz, the regional capital of Khuzestan.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Fadhlollah Mahalati, the ayatollah's representative to the Revolutionary Guards militia was on the plane chartered from Iranseman Company, the agency said.

Officials at the Ahvaz control tower said a plane had been lost and that a search was underway to identify and locate the craft, but added that no civilian flights used the airport. The airport "had been changed into a hospital" and only wounded people were flown out, the officials said.

Iran Air said it had no flights to Ahvaz and the airport control tower here said there was no civilian service to Ahvaz.

An Iranian pilot said he thought the plane would have been a Hercules C-130 transport used by the Iranian Air Force to carry wounded from the front. If it had been flying from Tehran to Ahvaz, there would not have been many people on board, he said.

Iran said "the Baghdad regime has added another chapter to the collection of its crimes and violations of international conventions" by shooting down a civilian airliner.

Two airline companies, Iran Air and Asseman, operate domestic flights in Iran.

Baghdad Cites AFP

JN201739 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1715 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Brothers, AFP has said that Fadhlollah Mahalati, Khomeyni's representative on the Guards Corps, and a number of Iranian Majlis deputies were killed today. In a report citing the Iranian regime's news agency, AFP added that the military plane downed by our fighter planes today was returning from the battlefield in the Iranian southern sector carrying Mahalati and the Iranian deputies. AFP did not mention the names of the deputies killed with Mahalati.

Spokesman Denies Claims

JN201625 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Feb (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has denied that Iraqi planes downed any Iranian civilian planes today. In a statement to INA, the spokesman said that the Iraqi Air Force operations were confined to striking military targets in the southern sector of Iran and on the battlefield. He said that what has been reported by IRNA in this regard is an exposed lie.

The spokesman added: If what has been disseminated by IRNA were true, the Tehran Airport control tower would have been the first to know of the incident.

The control tower, replying to a question by AFP following the IRNA report on the downing of a plane, denied knowledge of any downing of a civilian plane today.

The spokesman indicated that the Iranian war information office also did not support what was reported by IRNA in its replies to questions by AFP.

Spokesman Defies Iran To Prove Planes Shot Down

JN211202 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1135 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Feb (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has defied Iranian rulers to prove that any Iraqi plane was downed today. He added: We in Iraq do not hesitate to announce our losses of aircraft, if there are any, out of our commitment toward our people and world public opinion.

He indicated that the Iranian rulers find no other way to deceive the Iranian people but through cheap lies in which they cover their losses amounting to tens of thousands, the bodies of which can be seen daily on television.

The military spokesman stressed that Iraqi planes carried out 230 raids today without losing a single plane. He added that the Iranian rulers who pretend to be men of religion have no other trade except that of lies and deterioration in the quagmire of vice and baseness. Their claim that they downed five Iraqi planes today is a baseless fabrication which they reiterate shamelessly.

Spokesman Denies Iranian Residential Areas Bombed

JN201249 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Feb (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has refuted Iranian claims that Iraqi aircraft strafed residential areas in northwestern Iran yesterday.

The spokesman said that the Iraqi Air Force has not carried out any missions against civilian targets whether in northwestern Iran or anywhere else. He emphasized that the four Iranian camps which the Iraqi planes attacked are not considered civilian targets but vital military utilities where troops are assembled and weapons stock-piled.

The military spokesman said that contrary to what it claims, the Iranian enemy yesterday sent two planes to bomb populated areas in the Al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate in northern Iraq.

The Iranians also shelled the populated area of Abu al-Khasib with heavy artillery, he concluded.

Saddam Husayn Tours VII Army Corps Sector

JN202114 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2015 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] We have just received the following

President Staff Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has inspected the VII Army Corps sector. The president was briefed on the measures and arrangements our triumphant forces have taken to confront and defeat the Iranian aggression during his meeting with Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister; Staff General 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of state for military affairs; a number of Armed Forces General Command members at the front; the commander of the VII Army Corps; and the field commanders.

His excellency visited the port of Umm Qasr, where he greeted our valiant fighters there. The fighters pledged to the president that they will exert their utmost so that Iraq will remain proud and free under its courageous, historic leadership.

The president made a brief speech in which he saluted a number of Air Force men and naval forces personnel. He said: We follow your heroic actions on the enemy's left flank in detail. We also follow your action on the right flank and elsewhere. In this battle, as in all big battles, all hands must take part and must coordinate their action in order to achieve good results. God willing the results will be as you wish them to be.

His excellency then inspected one of our naval formations in the Umm Qasr harbor. He also inspected the harbor and witnessed the high morale of our naval forces' fighters and their readiness to defeat the enemy's naval force and to teach it the lesson it deserves.

His excellency boarded one of the gunboats in the harbor and inspected the boats' weapons and military equipment and witnessed their ability to deal deadly blows to enemy naval units and boats.

The president also visited the command center of the Al-Faris where he witnessed the high readiness and combat ability of our brave forces.

The hero fighters whom the president visited renewed their pledge to his excellency to remain true to their principles and carry out all kinds of duties until the rapacious invaders are defeated and their forces are thwarted forever.

Arab, Other Correspondents Tour Umm al-Rasas

JN201954 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Press delegations and Arab and foreign news agency correspondents visited Umm al-Rasas Island in the VII Army Corps sector today. The journalists and correspondents acquainted themselves with the heavy losses in life and equipment our heroic Armed Forces have inflicted on the attacking invaders.

The correspondents also toured the front lines opposite the despotic enemy and witnessed our valiant fighters' high morale and their insistence on defending the soil of the precious homeland.

AL-RA'Y Interviews Iraqi Commander on Al-Faw Battles

JN210858 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Feb 86 pp 1, 21

[*AL-RA'Y* team dispatch from Al-Faw, southern Iraq]

[Excerpt] Staff Lieutenant General Hisham Sabah al-Fakhri, commander of southern column operations in the Al-Faw area, has said that the Iranians mounted their recent aggression in order to seize the Umm Qasr port and threaten Arab Gulf states, including Kuwait.

In a statement to *AL-RA'Y* while leading the battle to liberate Al-Faw yesterday, Al-Fakhri said that the comprehensive offensive mounted by the Iraqi VII Army Corps is very quietly putting pressure on the Iranian enemy in Al-Faw to defeat the aggressors and push them back to the international border. He stated that 150,000 Iranians took part in this aggression and that about one-third has so far been added to them. [sentence as published]

He added that the Iranian enemy used all of its military capabilities in this offenisve and did not spare a small boat or an aircraft, indicating that the enemy used chemical weapons against the Iraqi Army at 1000 yesterday.

He said the Iranians are in control of less than 200 square km in Al-Faw and added: We are pursuing them and the battle is mostly one of infantry and Air Force because the topography of the area does not allow for a great dependence on armor. The Iranians are also depending on anti-tank weapons and set up combat lines at intervals of only 30 meters.

Al-Fakhri ruled out an Iranian offensive elsewhere because they have concentrated their military impact on the Al-Faw area, adding that this is one of the historic and strategic battles which is important for Iraq. By ending it, he said, the Iraqi Army can practically destroy Iranian military power, which he called an ill wind, for a long time.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iran

230 Air Raids Carried Out

JN211147 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1137 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Feb (INA) — Iraqi fighter planes have carried out 230 destructive raids on Iranian forces' positions and concentrations in the Iraqi VII Army Corps front since this morning and up to 1400 [1100 GMT] today.

An Iraqi military spokesman said a short while ago that Iraqi fighter planes destroyed large quantities of weapons, equipment, and hardware and inflicted massive losses on Iranian personnel.

Spokesman Denies 4 Jets Downed

JN201240 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1226 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Feb (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims on the downing of four Iraqi planes. The spokesman said that only one Iraqi plane fell on the battlefield today and that the Iranian side is held responsible for the safety of its pilot.

He added that when the Iranians lie by minimizing their losses they also lie in exaggerating the size of our losses. However, he said, facts will certainly be exposed to the Iranian people and the world public. Moreover, the Iranian regime cannot conceal the fact that tens of thousands of Iranian troops have been wiped out so far.

The spokesman said that Iraq has lost 6 planes since the beginning of the Iranian aggression on 9 February whereas 14 Iranian planes have been destroyed so far.

50,000 Iranian Dead, Wounded

JN201900 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Basra, 20 Feb (INA) — An Iraqi military commander has announced that the Iraqi forces killed or wounded 50,000 Iranian troops in the recent Iranian aggression on the VII Army Corps sector. The commander of the southern column told the INA team today that Iraqi forces in the VII Army Corps sector are currently tightening their siege on the Iranian forces and their defeated remnants. He said the Iranian forces have two options: either to flee the battlefield or die at the hands of our forces, affirming that this battle will be Iran's last battle. The commander said that the current military situation is in favor of the Iraqi forces and that the Iranian regime's aims, which prompted it to commit aggression on Iraq, will soon meet with abject failure.

Commander on Naval Units Destroyed

JN201259 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1200 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text]Staff Colonel Usamah 'Abd al-Majid Sab'ah, chief of staff of the Naval Force, has said that our courageous, heroic navy managed to repulse and destroy all the ships and naval units which tried to approach the area of Khowr-e Musa and (Khowr-e Al-'Amya) and were able to destroy and sink 40 supply ships and 5 missile boats, down 3 enemy planes of the F-5 and F-4 types, and seize 2 boats complete with weaponry, equipment, and personnel. Moreover, they managed to capture a number of enemy soldiers.

In a statement to the Baghdad Domestic Service and Voice of the Masses correspondents at the battlefronts today, Staff Col Usamah 'Abd al-Majid Sab'ah asserted that our heroic navy was able to impose its control on the northern Arab Gulf region, refuting the Iranian regime's claims and lies that it controls the entries to the two ports [as heard] and the sea entries and passages leading to the Arab Gulf. He said: We defy the Iranian navy to prove its presence in the region after our brave units have managed to destroy all enemy attempts to approach them. He pledged to President leader Saddam Husayn to achieve more victories over the Iranian forces of tyranny and aggression.

Communique No 2,123 Issued

JN201803 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Communique No 2,123 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 20 February 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We have warned the tyrant Iranian rulers before the whole world that the facts which govern the struggle and elements of strength on each side, headed by the fact that Iraq is defending its land and sovereignty, prove that victory will be on the side of great Iraq. The current aggression, its current results, and the upcoming results whose glimpses are appearing on the horizon confirm more than ever before that the aggression of the Iranian racist clique will only result in wiping out thousands more of their sheep and destroying what remains of their military machine.

Current battles prove the failure of the Iranian plot and show that the wicked designs have boomeranged. The remnants of the charlatans have abjectly failed to realize their general and detailed plans, leading to tens of thousands of casualties. The Iranian forces will suffer far greater losses than the Iranian rulers could ever imagine. Their remnants are now in a stifling area which is shrinking day after day while our forces are dealing them blows from all sides and tightening their siege around them, successfully implementing the plan of completely wiping them out and purging the last inch of territory of their filth. God be praised. We have overpowered them. God has made us follow the good path and left our enemies fumbling in their misguidedness.

The following is a round of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. In the VII Army Corps front, our central and northern columns destroyed several enemy groups which tried to approach our positions last night. Our forces inflicted on these groups grave losses in men and weaponry and forced the few who remained alive to flee. Meanwhile, our forces in these two brave columns continued their pressure on the enemy with unceasing firepower all day today.

The southern column forces last night poured molten fire on the enemy, ripping its ranks and spreading death among its troops. This morning, the enemy tried to dispatch several groups toward our positions but they were all wiped out. The situation in the area was settled in favor of our victorious forces. Your work is much appreciated, O men. You are worthy of our love and pride.

2. Our powerful Air Force is daily playing heroic roles in wiping out the aggressors, destroying the pillars of aggression inside Iran, protecting Iraqi skies, and destroying enemy equipment, weaponry, and machinery. The eagles of the air have been greatly contributing toward deterring and defeating the enemy and in thwarting all enemy plans and intentions through their effective

support for our land forces. Our capable Air Force carried out the following missions last night and today:

a. Our planes launched a series of successful raids against enemy concentrations and supply lines in order to increase the worries of the Khomeyniites and to increase their bleeding night and day as punishment for their continuous aggression against our country.

b. Throughout the day, successive squadrons of our planes continued to cut off the heads of the aggressors, dropping on them tons of deadly bombs and inflicting on them grave losses in men, weaponry, and hardware in 426 combat missions.

c. An enemy F-4 plane attempted to penetrate our international border in the VII Army Corps sector, but our brave eagles intercepted it and shot it down at 0950 [0650 GMT] today.

d. The brave eagles intercepted a military plane and shot it down in the Ahvaz region at 1152.

e. At 1550 today, an air strike was directed at a large maritime target near the Iranian coast. It was destroyed.

f. Our planes today returned to hit the (Ra's-Abadan) bridge, the Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr]-Abadan bridge, and the bridge set up to replace Chuyebdeh bridge with the aim of preventing the enemy from replacing them in order to reinforce its forces and evacuate its casualties.

After carrying out all these heroic missions, our eagles returned safely to the homeland with the exception of one plane, which fell on enemy territory at 0707 today. The pilot was seen bailing out safely. We hold the Iranian side responsible for preserving the life of this pilot.

Glory to you, O Iraqi eagles. May God grant you permanent victory.

3. The Army helicopter gunships continue to deal devastating blows to enemy troop concentrations, positions, weaponry, and hardware. The helicopter gunships are extending large-scale support to our land forces, which are carrying out their heroic missions to destroy enemy remnants. Our helicopter gunships carried out 289 combat missions, inflicting massive losses on the aggressors. God bless your effort, O brave helicopter gunship men. Go forward to new blows that break the back of the enemy.

4. Our brave Navy continues to defend the waters of the Arab Gulf, imposing control over the operational theater in the northern Arab Gulf, inflicting losses on enemy ships and cutting off its supply lines. Our naval forces last night and today accomplished the following:

a. Our brave gunboats destroyed a big supply ship and another medium-sized one. They were hit and sunk north of the Arab Gulf at 2050 last night.

b. At 2135 last night, our Navy dealt a blow to another supply ship. It was immediately sunk.

c. The enemy tried to send one of its boats to save the sailors of one of the targets that was sunk last night, but one of our boats intercepted it and it was destroyed and sunk at 2245 last night.

d. Our brave Navy men hit a medium-sized supply ship at 0015 today. The ship was destroyed and sunk.

God bless you, O lions of the sea. Glory to our brave Navy. Go forward to more victories.

5. An enemy force attempted to advance toward our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. Our fighters confronted it, killing 104 enemy troops and injuring another 150. In the same sector, a brave unit launched a raid against one of the positions occupied by the enemy. The position was destroyed and occupied by our unit.

6. In other sectors; One enemy position, one ammunition dump, and one observation post were destroyed, and two enemy men were killed in the II Army Corps central sector. In the VI Army Corps east of the Tigris, two infantry positions were destroyed and five enemy men were killed.

7. The criminal enemy shelled Abu Al-Khasib District with long-range artillery, damaging two houses. Mandali was also shelled.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 February 1986.

Syrian President Contacts King Husayn 20 Feb

JN201934 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1928 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Amman — His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad held a telephone conversation with His Majesty King Husayn this evening.

PDRY Minister Arrives With Message From Al-'Attas

JN201021 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Amman — PDRY Justice and Awqaf Minister 'Abd al-Wasi' Ahmad Sallam arrived in Amman yesterday evening carrying a written message to His Majesty King Husayn from Engineer Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY Supreme Ppeople's Council Presidium.

In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, the minister stated that the message deals with bilateral relations and the painful events which took place in the PDRY recently.

Conveys Message to Husayn

JN201508 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1442 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Amman, 20 Feb (PETRA) — His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court here today PDRY Justice and Awqaf Minister 'Abd al-Wasi' Hamad Sallam who conveyed a message to his majesty from President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, on recent developments in the PDRY and bilateral relations.

The meeting was attended by Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court and Riyad al-Shak'ah, minister of justice.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN210649 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Amman — PDRY Justice and Awqaf Minister 'Abd al-Wasi' Ahmad Sallam left Amman yesterday evening following a 2-day visit to Jordan during which he handed His Majesty King Husayn a message from Engineer Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium.

In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY correspondent on leaving the airport, the minister said that during his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn he explained recent PDRY developments. His majesty showed Jordan's desire to promote relations between the two fraternal countries. The minister added that his visit to Jordan was successful and contributed to bolstering the relationship between the two fraternal countries. Justice Minister Riyad al-Shak'ah and a number of officials saw the minister off.

House of Representatives To Hold Emergency Session

JN101914 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] 'Akif al-Fayiz, speaker of the House of Representatives, has decided to call for an emergency session of the house at 1000 the day after tomorrow, Saturday.

SAWT AL-SHA'B on PLO's 'Inconsistent Behavior'

JN201350 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Feb 86

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "God Be Witness, For He Has Conveyed the Message," the newspaper *SAWT AL-SHA'B* says: We listen to King Husayn's speech and feel that the taste in our mouth grows bitterer and bitterer with every stage of its long, principled, and clear review of the Palestine question — the land, the Arab decision, the international role, and the PLO leadership.

The speech ends and we ask oursleves: Could it be that we have not yet understood the meaning of our national [qawmi] right and the Zionist plan after all these years? Have we not yet understood that the homeland is the land, that a people without a land is a community, and that an identity without a homeland is a reservoir of sad memories? Have we not yet understood that the homeland cannot be summed up in a statement and that it is too heavy to carry on a plane and too big to put in our pockets or bank accounts?

We used to say: In these bad Arab conditions, we have forgotten the unity of the great homeland. Our homeland has become the political entity which was created by the British Sykes and the French Picot. This political entity then diminished to become a regime and later an individual.

We now say: At the very moment when we removed the Palestine question from the center of the Arab struggle and put the PLO in its place, we and the PLO reached an impasse. You can differ with the PLO, but you cannot differ with Palestine. Right from the start the PLO has allowed its inconsistent behavior to confuse the Palestine question.

Thus, the PLO has fallen in the trap of the regime which has taken the place of the political entity. It has accepted the idea of the occupied political entity becoming a substitute for the homeland in the inverted equation. The PLO leadership did not understand the strategy of the Arab-Zionist conflict and did not use the tactic which would have enabled it to achieve that stratey. That leadership did not realize that it had very little room for political maneuvering.

SAWT AL-SHA'B adds: True, Jordan has special and distinct ties with the Palestinian homeland; it is also true that Jordan is ready to build an initial common stand for political action; but it is also true that Jordan does not build a bilateral front outside its pan-Arab commitment to Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and every Arab country. The policy of wheeling and dealing is a trivial policy which may have been alright for party politics in the 50's, but it is not alright for confronting an enemy who occupies and confiscates land and possesses military and political power as the Zionist entity does.

The paper concludes: Nobody has achieved politically what King Husayn has been able to achieve during the past year. The bulge he opened in the European and American fronts while playing the PLO's role is an important achievement consdering Jordan's size and the weak Arab position. How could such an endeavor end up with beating around the bush? Is the question one of liberating the West Bank from Jordan or from the occupation?

Al-Jumayyil on Talks With Mitterrand, Syria

JN191154 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
0610 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Interview with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil by news director Antoine Nawfal in Paris on 18 February -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Antoine Nawfal] Your excellency: You had a prolonged meeting with President Francois Mitterrand. I do not believe that the talks dealt only with the francophone conference. I am sure it touched on the Lebanese situation following the recent events.

[Amin al-Jumayyil] My meeting with President Mitterrand is natural because we are old friends and because France has a role in Lebanon. France sacrificed for Lebanon and is always endeavoring to help Lebanon, both in world forums and on the domestic level. We do not forget that France lost dozens of martyrs in Lebanon while helping Lebanon restore its sovereignty and independence. Even today, France has a group of French soldiers working within the UNFIL in the south. Dozens of French observers are working within the security committee, helping Lebanon restore security and stability, particularly in the capital, Beirut. We do not forget France's efforts in Lebanon. Moreover, we need France's help in terms of liberating south Lebanon. France has an effective role on the international level and in the Security Council, where France is a permanent member. France has friends in Israel, particularly Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. Therefore, we pin hopes on France's role and on the role of President Miterrand, who is interested in the Lebanese problem. This is my fifth meeting with President Mitterrand. Every meeting increases our confidence in France's sympathy toward Lebanon, that France supports Lebanon in its endeavors to restore peace, stability, and independence.

We discussed all issues, especially the issue of southern Lebanon and its liberation. We also discussed France's assistance to us to restore peace and amity within the Lebanese family. France has friends in Lebanon and will be able to tackle some problems and help us restore peace and security.

We affirm that the solution in Lebanon must be based first on the unity of Lebanese ranks and the Lebanese reconciliation. This is the first and basic condition. The second condition, which is no less important, is the cooperation with Syria, the Syrian initiative in Lebanon and the cooperation between Lebanese and Syrian officials. While explaining our views abroad we do not forget the Syrian role in Lebanon and the need to reach agreement with Syria on a salvation project in Lebanon because Syria is able to help in this regard.

[Nawfal] Do you intend to resume dialogue with Damascus in the near future?

[Al-Jumayyil] I, personally, and all the Lebanese people adhere to dialogue with Syria. I believe that my friendship with President al-Asad is firm and will overcome the passing cloud that is permeating Syrian-Lebanese ties. Perhaps we are passing through a difficult stage. All of us are in an impasse and there is no way out except through Syrian-Lebanese understanding. This cloud, which was formed by the tripartite agreement, must pass. We must cooperate in the interest of Lebanon, Syria, and the Arab cause. I am convinced that the Lebanese position will be understood by Syria, that Syria will completely understand the dimensions of this position. When Syria understands this, it will realize that it is necessary to return to the atmosphere that prevailed before this passing cloud. We will return to discussing our Lebanese problems and the Syrian-Lebanese relation in an atmosphere of amity, cooperation, and love. This is the aim of the Lebanese people.

[Nawfal] One last, pesonal question, I asked you a short while ago how the Lebanese president could leave his country in such circumstances. I believe I have not obtained the answer I hoped for. Is President al-Jumayyil not afraid to leave Lebanon in such circumstances? Some world leaders are afraid to leave their countries in similar circumstances.

[Al-Jumayyil] You are a Lebanese national and you know Lebanon. If the Lebanese president is afraid to leave Lebanon to explain the Lebanese cause, there is no need for us to continue our efforts to serve Lebanon. It is true that the Lebanese situation is not as stable as we want it to be, but we have no complexes. We are convinced of our cause. We explain this cause in all national and world forums. We will not concede this right. Lebanon's presence in international forums is a basic issue. It is within our role and is part of our mission. We will continue our moves. As for the fears you have mentioned, these fears are only in the imagination of some persons. I would like to assure you that the Lebanese legitimacy, which steadfastly faced all dangers and attempts at disunity and division, will remain. We are certain that the Lebanese people sanctify democracy in Lebanon and reject the language of violence and the gun. I am sure the legitimacy will restore its role and all the Lebanese leaderships will support it in the service of Lebanon.

[Nawfal] Thank you Mr President.

Al-Jumayyil Arrives in Morocco for Talks With King

NC201727 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1645 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived in Morocco this afternoon in response to an invitation conveyed to him by Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali to meet with King Hassan II. The Central News Agency had earlier cited informed sources as saying that communications were underway between Morocco and an Arab capital to arrange for President Amin al-Jumayyil's visit to that capital before his return to Lebanon.

MONDAY MORNING Interviews Nabih Birri on Issues

NC191535 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English
17-23 Feb 86 pp 20-23

[Interview with Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri by *MONDAY MORNING* reporter Nadim Abu-Ghannam — date, place not specified]

[Text] [Abu-Ghannam] How would you comment on (former) President Franjiyah's objection to a few of the basic provisions of the tripartite accord, including the proposed powers of the president of the republic and the "twofold-threefold" division of members of the parliament, whereby the legislature would be divided equally between Moslem and Christian deputies, and the Christian among the three major Christian sects?

[Birri] President Franjiyah agreed to the tripartite accord and suggested it follow the normal parliamentary procedures. Consequently, he did not mention any of the objections you mention in your question. Hence, there is no reason for any disagreement between us and President Franjiyah.

[Abu-Ghannam] But Franjiyah expessed his objection to the sectarian division of members of the parliament as stipulated in the tripartite accord on January 29 during his weekly press conference?

[Birri] I haven't heard of these objections. However, if President Franjiyah's comments were for the purpose of abolishing political sectarianism, then there is no disagreement between us on this matter either.

[Abu Ghannam] How would you comment on the calls proposing that either the president of the republic agrees to the tripartite accord and remains in power, or he resigns and in turn amendments are introduced to the agreement?

[Birri] I am against these calls and expressed my rejection recently on February 6. We demand the application of the tripartite accord and the removal of all obstacles preventing this. President Al-Jumayyil's refusal to endorse the tripartite accord was the main reason behind the calls for his resignation. The call for Al-Jumayyil's removal should not, however, divert us from the real cause of the problem: the need for the development and reform of Lebanon's political system.

We demand the application of the tripartite accord and support any call for the abolition of political sectarianism.

[Abu-Ghannam] You have often warned against the eruption of war in the Palestinian camps, but predicted that it would not last as long as the battle of last May. Do you expect such a war to take place in order to provide a cover for (PLO Chairman) Yasir 'Arafat's current moves and in view of his recent declaration on the flow of arms to the Palestinian camps?

[Birri] The instigator of a new camp war will this time be Amin al-Jumayyil and his regime. This is because Al-Jumayyil is trapped and cannot escape except by inciting troubles in West Beirut. He is not concerned with who might emerge victorious. All he wants is to prove to people that the problem is not related to his refusal to endorse the tripartite accord. He is now using the Palestinian camps to achieve this end.

Our sources indicate that a number of Palestinian fighters have infiltrated into the camps through East Beirut, but inspite of this, the Palestinians remain our brothers and we will do all that is possible to maintain coordination with them to prevent future disagreement. It is no secret that meetings between the Amal Movement and the Palestinian National Salvation Front are taking place almost daily in an attempt to prevent the instigation of conflict between Amal and the Palestinians, and for that matter between Amal and the Communist Party, or Amal and the PSP [Progressive Socialist Party] or the PSP and the National Syrian Social Party, and so on. Such plots aims at reducing the tension in East Beirut through instigating troubles in West Beirut and thereby diverting attention from those who obstructed the application of the tripartite agreement.

[Abu-Ghannam] You recently stated that if the situation deteriorated further and fighting was to break out on a large scale, the so-called political "red lines" would be bypassed. Would this not encourage regional and international involvement in such a manner as to redefine the existing balance of power between local factions?

[Birri] The involvement you speak of is already taking place. On every possible occasion the U.S. has used its veto to block Security Council resolutions in favor of the South. I don't believe the Americans can make up for their previous blunders in Lebanon by what they're presently doing against the South. They have already decreased the budget of UNIFIL by almost 50 percent. What initiative they will adopt in April (when the UNIFIL mandate comes to an end) regarding UNIFIL's future remains unclear.

Israel, as we all can see, is still present in the South. Its shelling of southern villages under the pretext of preventing operations of the National Resistance is unacceptable. Only recently, the Israelis though that by evicting the inhabitants of Jba', Amal would retaliate against Jazzin — a trap we did not fall into.

Hence the struggle will go on until the South is liberated from Israel and its agents. I believe that only then will those holding on to their privileges in the Lebanese system realize that the time to give them up has come, since the power they think is protecting them will have been driven out of Lebanon. Israel's continued presence in Lebanon is the cause of the tripartite accord's failure.

[Abu-Ghannam] Is the failure of the tripartite accord final, or is there a possibility of reviving it?

[Birri] This depends upon the strength of the Israeli factor in Lebanon. The more it is reduced, the more possible it is to revive the tripartite accord.

I would like to pose the following question by way of *MONDAY MORNING*: Why is Abdallah Abu Habib, Lebanon's ambassador in Washington, making contacts in a manner similar to that preceding the abrogation of the May 17 agreement? Only the president of the republic and officials in the Foreign Ministry can say why such contacts are taking place, and they know exactly what I am referring to by this. Why aren't they showing any genuine concern for the South? It is not enough to meet with the permanent members of the Security Council to discuss the South, while our embassies are making contacts for the opposite purpose.

[Abu-Ghannam] The Amal Movement has clashed with the PSP, the Murabitoun, and the Palestinians, and latest reports speak of clashes with the Communist Party. Is there a so-called "conspiracy" directed against the Movement, or are such clashes the results of miscalculations on its part?

[Birri] To be fair, I would say that the Movement is subject to the same conspiracies directed against the country as a whole, because of our belief in a single, unified Lebanon. Yet as a consequence of our convictions, we suffer more than others from such plots. But this does not mean we are infallible. Hence, on the one hand, the conspiracy is great, and on the other, our mistakes contribute to, though do not instigate, the intensification of trouble.

[Abu-Ghannam] How do you view the situation in East Beirut and do you think military battles will recur there?

[Birri] The agreement between the parties present in East Beirut has so far not produced a genuine negotiator. Through the use of force and trickery, Amin al-Jumayyil is now trying to impose himself as the only negotiator. This is why he obstructed the initiative of the Independent Maronite deputies, who resumed their contacts after Al-Jumayyil plot was revealed.

The Independent Maronite deputies are now trying to assess the opinions of different factions in hope that this may lead to political negotiations. However, Al-Jumayyil even objects to such reconciliatory moves, because the impression they give that he is not the sole official spokesman. That is the bloc's contacts are now taking place behind the scenes.

The Maronites themselves are no longer concerned with their privileges or the number of parliamentary seats they have. The only concern of the Maronite citizen is the unity of the country and the coexistence of the Lebanese. Similarly, the Moslem citizen wants to see Lebanon liberated and all Lebanese living as equals without any one group having privileges over others.

When the Lebanese state came into existence, the regime at the time improvised a temporary sectarian division of the country's political posts. But, this temporary division has since become institutionalized and entrenched, which is not possible any longer. The majority of citizens are today hoping for real and permanent salvation.

[Abu-Ghannam] How do you view the efforts of the Independent Maronite Bloc and their demands for introducing amendments on the tripartite accord?

[Birri] First, if the amendments demanded are in the public interest and not in the interest of a specific sect, we have first to review them before giving any answer. Actually, my sources indicate that the activities of the Maronite Bloc are not pointed in this direction. They have set a date to meet with me. But the appointment was cancelled, either under pressure or as a result of the unstable security situation prevailing on the green line. Another date has therefore been set to meet with them, and in the light of this meeting I will be able to comment whether their activities embody a new approach or whether they are destined to mirror Amin al-Jumayyil's political stance.

[Abu-Ghannam] Israel has annexed 35 square km of the South and might annex a larger area in the near future. In view of the seeming lack of regional concern, what military and political moves could be employed to deter Israel from further acquisition of territory? Are you considering bringing this issue up in talks with Arab governments?

[Birri] As long as Israel is present in the so-called border security zone, it is more accurate to say that it is annexing Lebanon entirely. The only way to deter Israel is through the national resistance. As long as Israel is present the national resistance will not cease its activities and will continue to flourish. I made this declaration in 1982, and its credibility has been proved on the ground since.

As regarding my intent to visit Arab states, I have already visited Kuwait and Algeria several times, but Lebanon's problems have prevented me from visiting other Arab states.

[Abu-Ghannam] France's permanent representative to the United Nations was scheduled to arrive in Lebanon today (Tuesday, February 11). Why was his visit postponed?

[Birri] He was supposed to arrive today and a meeting was scheduled between the two of us. But I was informed by the French ambassador that the visit was postponed a few days for personal reasons.

[Abu-Ghannam] Minister Marwan Hamadah said in an interview with *MONDAY MORNING* in January that there are international guarantees to renew the UNIFIL mandate this April. What are these guarantees? If they were not credible, how would the situation in the South develop?

[Birri] We demand the presence of the United Nations Interim Force in the South. We want it to receive better support and its numbers to be increased. Moreover, we call for the application of Security Council Resolution 425 and the deployment of the Lebanese army up to Lebanon's international borders. This has been the attitude of the Amal Movement since 1978, that is, since the adoption of Security Council Resolution 425. Israel's policy is to provoke UNIFIL through the militia [the Israeli-backed "South Lebanon Army"). Israeli officials have time and again declared their preference for the withdrawal of UNIFIL from the South.

We are completely aware that UNIFIL cannot force Israel to withdraw from the South. With the U.S. constantly using its veto power, the Security Council's inability to act has proved the truth of the saying that what is taken by force can only be regained by force. However, we wish UNIFIL and consequently the U.N. as a whole to remain witness to Israel's actions in the South.

UNIFIL does provide some security to inhabitants of the South, who have been disregarded by their government, by Arab countries and countries of the world in general. It also maintains social and medical services.

Up till now I have no information regarding any guarantees for the renewal of the UNIFIL mandate. I do, however, have information about the European attitude regarding this subject. The French have expressed their support for the continued presence of UNIFIL and the Italians are even ready to strengthen the already-present logistic force. The Europeans favor the renewal of UNIFIL's mandate. This was probably what Minister Hamadah meant by international guarantees. Similarly, the Soviets are not hostile to UNIFIL's role. This leaves us with the American attitude, which is suspicious, especially after they encouraged the reduction of UNIFIL's budget. The withdrawal of UNIFIL is not in the interest of international peace, nor of regional peace.

I believe that after eleven years of suffering, the international community owes it to Lebanon to maintain UNIFIL in the South.

[Abu-Ghannam] How would you comment on the view that the warning you and Minister Junblatt have made of a military confrontation was only to exert political pressure on the opponents of the tripartite accord, since, in the view of some observers, such a confrontation is unlikely at present?

[Birri] We did not call for a military confrontation. We have always preferred political solutions to our problems. However, when political means fail one is obliged to use other means.

When I personally called for the resignation of the president, I knew that he would not do so willingly. At the same time, I did not call for the use of force to pressure his resignation. I have adopted a sound democratic method and proposed the reduction of his mandate to four years or three years and a half. Some might think this might lead to the same end, but I disagree. If the presidential candidate feels he is capable of saving Lebanon, he could present himself for a second term and he might even win the election. However, this does not mean that the fate of Lebanon depends on the will of one individual. As I have said, when political means fail one is obliged to use force. I have called for military confrontation only when political channels were blocked.

[Abu-Ghannam] When might one expect a military confrontation to take place?

[Birri] When we reach a level of absolute political desperation. Up till now one could say that this desperation is not total.

[Abu-Ghannam] The economic situation continues to deteriorate and no concrete measures are being taken to stop this. Why haven't Amal Movement, the PSP and the other parties formed committees to control the prices of vital commodities as is being done in East Beirut?

[Birri] I think that the present economic situation in West Beirut does not differ from that in East Beirut. I do not believe that the commodities are being sold cheaper in East Beirut. The socioeconomic situation is not exclusive to one area, but is generalized to the whole country. Control of prices cannot put an end to the deteriorating economic situation. Such a situation was caused by the devaluation of the Lebanese pound, the security situation and the irresponsiveness of the regime. The current situation might deteriorate even more and will eventually lead to circumstances allowing for a popular revolution.

[Abu-Ghannam] But can we speak of a popular revolution amids the sectarian feelings that divide Lebanese society?

[Birri] Officials in East Beirut continue to exploit sectarian sensitivities to smother any positive developments. Yet when the situation becomes intolerable the people will finally realize the full dimension of the regime's maneuvers and will go beyond it. This is what I foresee.

[Abu-Ghannam] How would you evaluate (U.S. envoy) Richard Murphy's meetings with (Israeli Premier) Shim'on Peres and with King Husayn in London on the one hand, and the Jordano-Palestinian meetings on the other?

[Birri] I don't think anything will emerge from the talks between King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat or from the role that the Americans were supposed to play if direct negotiations took place between a joint Jordano-Palestinian delegation and Israeli officials. The PLO's recent attitude of continuing its rejection of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 shows that the PLO realizes that these negotiations will not benefit the Palestinians of the occupied territories. I believe talks will fail and the PLO will return to its basic priorities, which concentrate on resistance more than political dialogue. This will have positive results on the Lebanese scene.

NLP Leader Dany Sham'un Urges Syrians To Leave

NC201402 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] National Liberal Party [NLP] leader Dany Sham'un has called upon Syria to withdraw from Lebanon and to stop dealing with the Lebanese in this particular way. He stressed that Syria has a political role to play in closing the Lebanese file; it should support Lebanese consitutional and legitimate institutions so that Lebanon can be secure again.

Dany Sham'un emphasized that he was willing to meet with Ministers Junblatt and Birri without foreign interference or help; his intentions are purely pro-Lebanon. He said: We have no preconditions for dialogue with them. We feel that the political system should be amended through the consitutional institutions. We hope for an end to the war and a return to the legitimate institutions so that we can talk about amending the system.

The NLP leader stressed that he rejects the Damascus agreement because it infringes upon the sovereignty of Lebanon and implies an end to its independence. Dany Sham'un declared: A military solution would mean killing a million Christians — I dare them to kill a million Christians.

Syrians Shell Christian Areas

NC202103 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
2015 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpts] National Liberal Party leader engineer Dany Sham'un has called upon Syria to withdraw from Lebanon and to stop treating the Lebanese in this particular way. Sham'un accused the Syrian forces of shelling the eastern areas. He said that it has become the duty of the state to bring an urgent complaint to the UN Security Council and a similar complaint to the Arab League to stop the genocide of the Lebanese in general and the Christians in particular.

Syrian Role, Splits in West Beirut Analyzed

NC201733 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1515 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Following the failure of political pressure, the party supporting the tripartite agreement has moved to the next stage; namely, military pressure. It should be noted that this change has come in the wake of definite signs from Syria, particularly the statements made by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in his interview with the paper *LIBERATION*.

To understand the dimensions of the security flare-up, one must view them in conjunction with the circumstances that govern the parties to the tripartite agreement and with the bad situation in West Beirut. These parties are worried that the situation is not developing in their interests. The 1-month period given by Syria expires at the end of February, and so far no progress has been achieved in attempts to split the Christian front.

Minister Nabih Birri seems to be in a critical position in the western area in light of the division between a front supporting Syria — namely, the Amal Movement and the Syrian Social Nationalist Party — and a front leaning toward the PLO, which includes the Progressive Socialist Party, the Communist Party, the Sunnites, and Hizballah. As a result of this reality, the Amal Movement position has weakened while that of the Sunnites, linked with the Palestinians, has been strengthened.

The efforts being made by President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil abroad has confused those who were counting on his isolation. Instead, the president has succeeded in securing international and Arab support for Lebanon.

The success of the Lebanese Forces in ochestrating events in the eastern areas has also complicated the calculations of other parties. On the basis of these facts, therefore, it can be said that the clarification of domestic stands and the exploration of foreign ones has ended. A new phase has begun that observers expect to be somewhat tense, as evidenced by the events taking place in upper Al-Matn during the last few hours.

Further on Clashes in Upper Al-Matn Area

Army Positions Under Fire

NC191322 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Clashes are occuring along the Al-Dawwar-Al-'Ayrun combat line on the upper Al-Matn. Previously, Army positions in Al-Dawwar and the surrounding hills had come under artillery fire from Suhur al-Shuwayr and Bulunya. Gunmen had appeared in the Al-Ma'amil area in Al-'Ayrun prior to the clashes. Shells reportedly fell on the Bikfayya area and on Dahr al-Sawwan.

At approximately 1330 today, the Al-Kahhalah and 'Arayya hills came under mortar and machinegun fire from Al-'Abbadiyah, Shwit, and 'Alay. Army positions in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, 'Ayn al-Sayyidah, Qurs al-Mudawwar, and Suq al-Gharb were subject to intermittent rocket and machinegun fire.

4 Killed, 25 Wounded

NC201854 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] The upper Al-Matn front flared up again at 1830 today. As of 1840, firing along the confrontation lines is being accompanied by the indiscriminate shelling of remote villages in Al-Matn and Kasrawan. Latest reports indicate that several shells have fallen in the valleys adjacent to the town of 'Ajaltun and on the coastal and central areas of Kasrawan.

Intermittent clashes were reported to have taken place along the Al-Dawwar combat lines between 1400 and 1730. The Lebanese Army has managed to strike painful blows at the aggressors and gunmen, who attempted to attack military positions. The Army has inflicted several casualties on the ranks of the gunmen. As a result of the shelling of innocent citizens in the areas of Al-Matn and Kasrawan, 4 people have been killed and 25 others wounded.

Violent Fighting Reported

NC200700 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0545 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpts] The upper Al-Matn combat lines and the surrounding villages and towns were the scene of violent fighting last night in which various types of weapons, including long-range artillery, were used.

Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] and Junblatt gunmen last night continued their attacks on Lebanese Army positions in Al-Dawwar, 'Ayn al-Tuffahah, and the surrounding villages, which do not return the fire. Artillery was directed against Bikfayya, Bhirsaf, Bhannis, Dahr al-Sawwan, Himlaya, Bayt Shabab, Kafr 'Aqqa, Wadi al-Karm, Mar Musa, Zabbugha, 'Ayn al-Kharrubah, Al-Dawwar, and Bayt Miri. About 15 minutes ago, a number of shells fell on the upper Al-Matn coast and caused several fires. An explosives expert recently arrived to remove unexploded shells from this area.

According to security reports, the shelling of Christian areas originated from Duhur al-Shuwayr, Bulunya, (Shillamah), Al-Muruj, Shrin, and Tarshish. Artillery emplacements in Bhamdun, Al-Hilaliyah, Al-'Abbadiyah, Falugha, 'Ayn al-Sihhah, Hammana, and Ra's al-Matn also participated in the shelling.

Last night and at dawn today, the Lebanese Army repulsed several infiltration attempts by Junblatt and SSNP gunmen, causing heavy losses in men and equipment, on the Al-'Ayrun-Al-Dawwar and Zighrin-Shrin lines.

Cease-Fire Broken

NC201043 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] The Army and the Phalangists of the B'abda Salazar [President al-Jumayyil] have resumed their aggression on the upper Al-Matn combat lines. They have been shelling the areas of Duhur al-Shuwayr, (Tallat al-Ma'mal), and Zar'un and the surrounding hills since shortly after 1100. The shelling shattered the relative calm that prevailed there after a cease-fire agreement reached at 0900 [as heard].

Violent clashes had taken place at dawn today between the nationalist forces and the Army and Phalangists of the B'abda Salazar but had ended with the cease-fire. During the fighting, artillery and rocket fire reached deep inside the residential areas in Duhur al-Shuwayr, Majdal Tarshish, Tarshish, Mshikha, Bshillama, Zar'un, al-Khinsharah, Bulunya, and Al-Muruj.

We would like to note that the nationalist forces have again taken control of (Tallat al-Ma'mal) and the (Al-Madafin) area on the Al-Dawwar-Al-'Ayrun line. These forces have also strengthened their positions on the Shrin-Zighrin combat line.

Speaker Al-Husayni, Deputies Leave for Kuwait

NC202018 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni left Beirut for Kuwait this evening in response to an official invitation from the Kuwaiti Government. Speaker al-Husayni will attend Kuwait's National Day celebrations and the opening of the Kuwaiti National Assembly. Al-Husayni is accompanied by a delegation comprised of ranking officials in the Chamber of Deputies.

Daughter of French Hostage Summoned to Beirut

NC211342 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned from Western intelligence sources that Simone Carton, the daughter of a French diplomat kidnapped by Hizballah, has been asked to come to Beirut or to go to the French Embassy in Damascus as soon as possible. The summoning of Danielle [as heard], who has been staying abroad, is linked to reports about her father's possible release. However, French Embassy sources in Beirut have refused to comment on this.

The Voice of Lebanon's Paris correspondent has been told by informed sources that the French authorities have freed two Palestinians from the Abu Nidal group accused of killing PLO representative 'Izz al-Din Khalaf in 1978. The French president's release of the two Palestinians was a clear signal to Syria and Hizballah regarding France's true intentions and the Mitterrand government's ability to free detainees, even in the face of the country's coming elections.

According to these reports, France has expressed its willingness to release the members of the Anis al-Naqqash group, who are charged with the attempted assassination of former Iranian Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar. This would be in return for the release of the two French citizens held by Hizballah, and came despite the objection of the French foreign and interior ministers.

Further on Fighting in South, Israeli Activities

Israelis Leave Some Areas

NC191345 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] The National Resistance men and inhabitants of the southern villages continue to check the enemy's ferocious onslaught. After fierce battles with the National Resistance men, the enemy forces withdrew from Haris township at 1350 and headed toward Sribbin township. The Israeli troops have also left Haruf and headed toward Al-Ghanduriyah.

According to reports from the south, the occupation forces prevented the International Red Cross from entering Haris to evacuate the wounded. The majority of this township has been destroyed and looted by the Israeli forces.

The enemy troops are now combing the hills of northern Kawkaba. An Israeli patrol advanced toward Jabal al-Dahr hills and the hills overlooking Libayya township. The militias of agent Lahd are searching the area between the Al-Ahmadiyah hills and Haruf, up to Jisr al-Dallafah in the southern part of west Al-Biqa'. Lahd militiamen shelled the Maydun hills and the outskirts of 'Ayn al-Tinah.

Israeli Gunboats Halt Ship

NC191823 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Citing maritime sources, our correspondent in Sidon has reported that Israeli gunboats have intercepted a cargo ship named (*Greenway*) this evening. The vessel had been en route to Sidon port. The Israelis thoroughly searched the ship and forced it to change course. Israeli gunboats have also been seen on patrol duty off the coast tonight.

Israelis in Western Al-Biqa'

NC191554 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Reports received from western Al-Biqa' today indicate that Israeli forces have begun combing operations in Libyayya, Jabal al-Dahr, (Tillasah), Shallal al-Ahmadiyah, Maydun, and 'Ayn al-Tin. In the eastern sector, the Israeli forces have closed the Hasbayya-Marj al-Zuhur crossing point in both directions.

An Israeli force took up position in front of the [Islamic] Shari'ah Court in Tibnin in Bint Jubayl District at 1100. Enemy personnel then forced open the door and searched the court. This force is still there.

Resistance Operations in South

NC201257 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] At dawn today, a resistance group attacked an Israeli forces assembly point on a hill between Khirbit Silm and Bi'r al-Salasil. A ferocious 35-minute battle ensued, during which the enemy used tanks and heavy-caliber machineguns. The enemy forces also searched the area. Another group then attacked the same position, using artillery and automatic weapons. This group clashed for 25 minutes with the occupation forces, which continued to use tanks and heavy-caliber machineguns.

Amal Movement fighters later attacked the same position, using RPG-7's, according to an Amal statement. Soon afterward, Israeli warplanes launched mock raids and dropped flares over the operations area, focusing on Kafr Dunin and Bi'r al-Salasil. Afterward, resistance groups used rockets, RPG-7's, and 107-mm rockets in operations along the line facing the occupation forces.

The enemy war planes staged further mock raids along the coast, from Tyre to Sidon. Israeli enemy gunboats were seen cruising off the shores between Tyre and Sidon, accompanied by Israeli helicopters, which illuminated the area with flares.

At 0730 today, enemy vehicles were seen on the Sribbin crossroads moving toward Haris. At 0745, enemy forces surrounded Bra'shit. At 0800, the enemy forces entered the town of Dayr Mtar with 12 armored vehicles. Other occupation forces surrounded Haris, then entered, and began searching houses for an Israeli soldier who had been killed earlier.

At 0810, gunboats were sighted all along the coast between Sidon and Al-Ghaziyah. At 0900, enemy trucks, tanker trucks, and jeeps were spotted moving in the direction of Al-Ghanduriyah. Helicopters flew over Dayr Mtar as infantry soldiers moved toward the Al-Qa'qa'iyah-Frun Bridge.

Roundup of Operations in South

NC202155 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
2100 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] We have just received the following report on the course of operations in the resisting south: Israeli troops carried out another attempt to attack Srifa at 1900. Ferocious fighting ensued for some time between the Israeli enemy and a combined force composed of Amal Movement members and the town's inhabitants. The Israeli objective was to remove bodies and burnt vehicles from the battlefield.

At 1935, a clash broke out between resistance men and enemy troops in Dayr (al-Ghar) and Bi'r al-Salasil. Israeli troops illuminated the area and carried out searches. A UNIFIL center in [name indistinct] was hit during the fighting.

In retaliation for attacks on the defenseless villages, a group of Srifa's sons shelled Zionist settlements in the Galilee area with heavy-caliber Grad rockets at 2050.

The townships of Kafr Tibnit, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah came under artillery shelling from enemy emplacements located on ridges overlooking the towns at 2115. Material damage was reported.

Israeli helicopters have continued to fly over Lebanon, dropping flares over areas that have been invaded.

Israeli Force 'Wiped Out'

NC201153 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1136 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] According to the latest reports received from the south, fierce clashes are taking place between the Israeli enemy and Amal Movement fighters in Frun village. The reports also say that the Amal fighters ambushed a 20-man occupation force in Srifa. The entire force was wiped out.

'Ferocious' Fighting Reported

NC201259 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1145 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] According to information received a short while ago on the progress of today's ferocious battles, the Israeli forces surrounded the town of Tibnin this morning and are carrying out investigations in Haris, which they also surrounded this morning. At 0915, Israeli occupation forces coming from Al-Naffakhiyah made an attempt to encircle the town of Srifa. The enemy's infantry has tried to block the roads between Srifa and Al-Naffakhiyah from the direction of Frun. At 1015, enemy helicopters landed troops in Wadi 'Ayn al-Zarqa, which is situated between Dayr Mtar and Al-Naffakhiyah.

Military concentrations have been observed on the following lines: Shama, Tayr Harfa, Al-Jibbayn, Al-Hamra, the neighborhood of Majdal Zun, Srifa, Dayr Kifa, and all along the Tyre-Al-Naqurah coastline. Meanwhile, Israeli gunboats continue to cruise up and down the coast off Tyre.

Israeli warplanes have been flying over Tyre since last night.

Fighting has been taking place in Srifa and the outskirts since 1200. The Israeli occupation forces are attacking the town with scores of vehicles and hundreds of soldiers. The resistance fighters and Srifa residents are confronting them in one of the most ferocious battles that have taken place since the beginning of the recent invasion. The total losses sustained by the resistance are not known but two people have been reported wounded and sent to the hospital.

The occupation forces are now surrounding Haddathah. They arrested 12 persons from Tibnin, looted houses and shops and stole cars. The resistance earlier clashed with the occupation forces at the approaches to Tibinin.

Amal on Israeli Casualties

NC201341 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1150 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] We learned a short time ago that the Israeli enemy has sustained many casualties. Ferocious battles appear to be taking place. The NNA office has just sent us the following report by telephone:

[Begin telephone report] We have been informed that approximately 20 Israeli soldiers have been wounded in the battle taking place in Srifa.

The Amal leadership in the south has issued a statement saying that at present 12 Israelis have been killed and 30 wounded. The statement noted other Israeli losses: One helicopter has been shot down; one Israeli gunboat has been damaged; a Merkava tank has been destroyed; and six armored vehicles and nine other vehicles — troop carriers, jeeps, and civilian cars belonging to Israeli intelligence — have been put out of commission.

The statement said that nine persons from the Amal Movement have been martyred; 17 others wounded; and 327, including some residents of the south, are missing. [end telephone report]

Amal SAM-7 Downs Helicopter

NC201423 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1408 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] About 1,500 Israeli troops tried to advance toward the town of Srifa at 1315 today. Their attempt, however, failed because of the ambushes laid down by men of the faithful resistance. The enemy troops, who were forced to retreat, directed intensive shellfire at Srifa. Israeli helicopters conducted searched over the town as a result of which several people were either killed or wounded.

At 1330, enemy helicopters used Milan missiles to attack the town. Resistance men managed to down a helicopter. We have just been informed that an Amal force used a SAM-7 to shoot down an Israeli helicopter between Srifa and Shhur at 1400. The enemy losses in the Srifa fighting amount to 20 killed and 5 wounded.

Continued Fighting Reported

NC211327 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Excerpts] At 0740 today, Israeli enemy helicopters conducted a major search operation in and around Bi'r al-Salasil. Enemy vehicles and other massed units were seen in the hills of Kafr Dunin and Dayr Ntar at 0930. Enemy infantry came down from the Kafr Dunin Hills and searched the valley near the town. At 1000, the villages of Humin al-Fawqa, Jarju', and Arab Salim came under violent fire from 82-mm mortars and 12 mm guns manned by agent Lahd's personnel in the Sujud hills. The shelling cut all roads leading to the three towns. At 1020, Israeli warplanes flew at a low altitude over the region south of Tyre and Dayr Ntar.

Three Israeli helicopters reconnoitered Haris and the Dayr Ntar Hills at 1100. Half an hour later, four helicopters combed Kafr Dunin and the areas overlooking Al-Shahabiyah, Jwayya, and Mahrunah. We learned a short while ago that fighting is going on, pitting local residents and members of the resistance against the occupation forces in Kafr Dunin.

A 20-man Israeli patrol tried to enter Al-Shahabiyah at 1200, but ran into resistance forces and the town's inhabitants.

At 1330 today, the martyr Bilal Fahs group launched an attack against an Israeli enemy assembly point in Bi'r al-Salasil, destroying a vehicle. Reports indicate that fighting has been taking place since 1100 along the Al-Shahabiyah-Kafr Dunin line, where the occupation forces are trying to advance. The Al-Shahabiyah-Kafir Dunin Road has been cut.

According to our latest information, the National Resistance has launched six assaults on the upper Galilee and Metulla. A katyusha rocket struck Marj 'Uyun, and ambulances were seen racing to the area.

Israelis Dismantling Headquarters

NC211444 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] According to the latest reports from the south, Israeli forces are dismantling their command headquarters in Burj Qallawiyah-al-Ghanduriyah. The Lahd militias are also withdrawing a total of 25 vehicles from the same position. Enemy helicopters have combed Kafr Dunin, Al-Shihabiyah, and Bi'r al-Salasil. Tanks were observed moving from Dayr Kifa to Bi'r al-Salasil at 1445. Enemy helicopters flew over Kafra, Yatir, and Haris at 1500.

Communist Party Politburo Member Assassinated

NC200930 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0900 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] At 0850 today, two gunmen on a motorcycle opened fire on Khalil Na'us, a member of the Lebanese Communist Party Political Bureau, who was in his Mercedes 200 at the Burj Abu Haydar-Corniche al-Mazra'ah crossroads. As a result, Na'us and his driver were injured. They were taken to the American University Hospital, where Na'us soon died.

General Strike Called

NC201457 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] The Lebanese Communist Party has issued the following statement: The criminal assassination of struggler Khalil Na'us comes as the Israelis are renewing their aggression against the south and as the internal isolationist conspiracy to thwart the national solution for the Lebanese crisis is becoming more intense. At the same time, all those forces that are agents of the United States and Israel are coming together with the isolationist organs in order to incite sedition in the nationalist areas, preoccupy the nationalist Lebanese, and distract their attention from the main enemy in the south and from the battle to bring an end to sectarian, factional hegemony within the country.

In its statement, the Communist Party called for an all-out national response that will emphasize the unity of the nationalist forces in the face of the conspiracy and their determination to foil this plot and its aims. They also called for a national procession tomorrow, Friday, for the great martyr's funeral, and for a general strike in Lebanon to express condemnation of the crime. The Lebanese Communist Party's Political Bureau also instructed all communists to be extremely vigilant and alert in order to thwart the enemies' conspiracy and to organize a full nationalist response to this crime.

Strike Marks Funeral

NC211308 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Nationalist Beirut is again living through a tragedy, and sinful hands have made a new attempt to tamper with our national destiny. The forces of sedition have tried to harm our people's faith. Nationalist Beirut took part in today's funeral of Khalil Na'us, member of the Lebanese Communist Party Central Committee and the official responsible for its Beirut branch. The funeral was held in the Imam 'Ali Ibn Abu Talib Mosque in Al-Tariq al-Jadidah.

In denunciation of this sinful act, Beirut, the southern suburb, Sidon, the mountain area, Tripoli, Al-Kurah, and Al-Biqa' went on strike today. All schools and businesses were closed. A number of delegations and prominent personalities visited the Lebanese Communist Party Central Committee Headquarters to pay their respects and condemn the crime.

Communists To Retaliate

NC211256 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] In a telephone call to the Voice of Lebanon at noon today, the Communist Revolutionaries Organization [Munazzamat al-Thawriyin al-Shuyu'iyin] declared that the criminal assassination of one of its members, Khalil Na'us, and other similar attempts will not go unpunished.

The group warned the Amal Movement, and specifically its West Beirut security service, that it will be dealt a double blow.

Communist Action Group Reemerges in West Beirut

NC201515 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] A new element has appeared in the explosive situation in West Beirut. The Communist Action Organization has reemerged, using the so-called National Resistance to undertake a gradual and open resumption of its activities.

This follows a noticeable absence from the information and political scene in the recent period on the part of [organization leader] Muhsin Ibrahim.

Security sources expect the Communist Action Organization to begin its military activity in West Beirut. It has organized more than 15 cells in Al-Hamra', Al-Rawshah, Al-Raml al-Zarif, and Al-Zaydaniyah, and is also seeking to establish cells in the southern suburb, despite close control of communist movements and activity in that area by the Amal Movement.

Amal Warned on Kidnapping of Hizballah Official

NC201147 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] An Hizballah official, who identified himself as 'Izz al-Din, contacted Voice of Lebanon to warn the Amal Movement and the 6th Brigade.

He threatened that if Hizballah official Mustafa Shahadah was not released within 24 hours, Hizballah would take the appropriate measures to secure his release.

Tehran Reports Foreign Minister Arrives in Damascus

LD211038 Tehran IRNA in English 1003 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text) Damascus, Feb. 21, IRNA — Iran's acting foreign minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati heading a political delegation arrived here Thursday night [20 Feb] with a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i for his Syrian counterpart President Hafiz al-Asad. Besharati and his accompanying delegation were received at the airport by senior Syrian Foreign Ministry officials as well as staff of Iranian Embassy here.

In his meetings with President Hafiz al-Asad and other high ranking Syrian offiicals, the acting foreign minister is to discuss the latest developments in the Iraqi imposed war and in the region.

Soviet Union Provides Army With 250 T-80 Tanks

GF191248 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
19 Feb 86 p 22

[From "The Military Affairs" column by Sayid 'Iz al-Din]

[Text] Arab diplomatic sources stated that the Soviet Union last month provided Syria with 250 advanced T-80 tanks, and that 100 of these tanks have been deployed in forward positions at the front of the Golan Heights, along with another 400 T-725.

It is worth mentioning that the Israeli army does not possess any advanced tanks which could match the T-80 tanks.

Phalange Party Violates Lebanese Consensus

JN200941 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0733 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Damascus, 20 Feb (SANA)— The Newspaper *TISHRIN* has reaffirmed that the tripartite agreement is the only solution to end the Lebanese crisis and sedition and to extricate the ufshiftfraternal country from its problem.

In a comment today under the headline "Lebanon and theDesired Solution," the paper says: In his interview with the Frenchpaper *LIBERATION*, President Hafiz al-Asad shed further light on the Lebanese situation that became more complicated and volatile after some have tried to undermine the tripartite agreement contrary to the will of the overwhelming Lebanese majority.

The paper adds: Throughout the negotiations among the warring parties, Syria was eager to push each party a step toward the other parties. Syria was also eager to make many Lebanese politicians, national personalities, and active parties join the negotiations to crystallize the tripartite agreement that was actually signed and that was supported by the overwhelming lebanese majority. The hopes of a near end to the crisis were resurrected.

The paper explains that the Phalange Party leadership then violated the Lebanese consensus in an attempt to impede the implementation of the agreement and to foil the intensified efforts that were exerted to end the ordeal and enable Lebanon to restore its well-being. The paper cautions that Syria will not remain idle toward the development of events and attempts to keep Lebanon without a solution because Syria, which has exerted efforts and offered huge sacrifices in Lebanon for the sake of achieving the solution, will not allow matters to proceed toward a chasm because this means foiling these efforts and failure to obtain the fruits of these sacrifices.

Concluding, *TISHRIN* affirms that the Lebanese parties that obstructed the implementation of the agreement are called to shoulder their responsibilities toward Lebanon by returning to the correct path so that this agreement can be implemented. The agreement constitutes an advanced stage, and, accordingly it is an agreement among the Lebanese who approved it as a means to solve the crisis and end the sedition.

Further Reportage, Commentary on Husayn Speech

W. Bank Parliamentarians Summoned to Amman

TA210916 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0827 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Five members of the Jordanian Parliament who reside in the territories have left for Jordan. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that these Parliament members from the territories — and residents of the territories comprise half of the Jordanian Parliament — were summoned urgently to Amman. Observers in East Jerusalem link their departure for Jordan to moves issuing from King Husayn's speech and his decision to halt political coordination with the PLO.

MK's Reactions

TA201029 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Here are some more reactions to King Husayn's speech: Knesset Member [MK] Sara Doron believes the speech proves that Husayn is seeking U.S. aid, and perhaps even weapons for his army. She believes the king has no courage to enter negotiations without the PLO.

The Tehiya Knesset faction believes the speech exposed the Alignment's political methods, which are based on illusions. The only realistic policy is to implement Israeli sovereignty in the territories and strengthen the settlements.

Citizens Rights Movement MK Yosi Sarid believes that Husayn's speech reflects the tragedy of all sides and does not open any new options.

HADASH MK Me'ir Wilner maintains that the speech proves that the agreement between the Jordanian king and 'Arafat was doomed to failure. He believes there can be no solution without recognizing the right of the Palestinian people to an independent state alongside Israel.

Further Foreign Ministry Reaction

TA201713 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT
20 Feb 86

[Text] The evaluation in the Foreign Ministry is that Israel may appeal to the United States with a request for explanations of several details included in Husayn's speech, details regarding the U.S. position on the political negotiations. Today people in the Foreign Ministry are saying that nobody in Jerusalem knows about the document in which, according to Husayn, Washington has guaranteed to invite the PLO to a peace conference if it accepts Washington's conditions. The evaluation formulated this morning in the Foreign Ministry is that last night's speech should not be regarded as a sign of an absolute break between the PLO and Jordan. Here is our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel:

King Husayn's speech is not just a statement of position, but also an interesting, factual, historic document. The long speech containing a detailed review of the past year's contacts and talks gives us the chance to also learn something about how the negotiations on the Jordanian-Palestinian side progressed and, what is no less important, it also teaches us about the positions presented by the United States to the Jordanian king. In this regard, that which, in particular, gave rise to questions was Husayn's disclosure that about a month ago, and in writing, the United States guaranteed that if the PLO recognizes UN Security Council Resolution 242, agrees to negotiations with Israel, and refrains from the acts of terrorism, the organization will be invited to the international peace conference. Husayn also claimed that the United States had agreed that this conference would be convened not only on the basis of UNSC Resolution 242, but also on the basis of a guarantee of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, as he expressed it. All this was really something new for Israeli ears, at least for those located in the Foreign Ministry, and sources from the Foreign Ministry told us today that an examination will be made of all the facts expressed in Husayn's speech and, if required, the questions will be raised directly with the Americans. An initial evaluation presented by the Foreign Ministry this morning within the framework of a short document states that the speech should not be regarded as an absolute break between the PLO and Jordan. It is more of a separation period. Husayn did not close the door on renewed contacts, nor did he present an alternative to the PLO as a partner in the negotiations. The document also states that despite the fact that 'Arafat's name was mentioned many times as being responsible for the failure of the negotiations, Husayn treats the Jordanian-PLO agreement as an important document that enables him to participate with the Palestinians in the peace process. This, it should be recalled, is the only document in which the PLO expresses a positive attitude toward a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation as a counterweight to an independent Palestinian state. Another interesting matter is that Husayn did not use terms of incitement and hatred of Israel, but he did typify Israel as a negative element, a country that founds its policy on military power. In the final analysis the Foreign Ministry's official reaction was restrained. At least it was more restrained than that of the prime minister. Husayn's speech, the announcement issued this morning said, confirms the Israeli claim that the PLO is an obstacle to peace and cannot be a partner in negotiations. Despite the differences in nuances in the reactions, it does not appear that Husayn's speech is going to become a pretext for a new dispute in Israeli politics. It does not require an Israeli decision and it seems that the decision must now come from the PLO, the Arab countries, and the leaders of the territories.

Ilyas Frayj Comments

JN201743 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World
1530 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Interview with Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj by radio correspondent Ibrahim Shahid carried within the "With The Events" program; date and place not given]

[Text] [Ilyas Frayj] The break in political contact now between the Palestinian leadership and the Jordanian Government will have bad repercussions. This situation should not be left so, because it will create a vacuum. I hope that the PLO's leadership will reassess the matter and rectify the situation. As his majesty said, the occupation continues and land is lost, and if the land is lost we will become a community without any future.

[Ibrahim Shahid] Therefore, do you believe that the reason behind the Jordanian step is the failure of the PLO leaders to adopt a clear decision on 242 and 338 in order to participate in the international conference?

[Frayj] This is correct and the king showed this very clearly and frankly. The dialogue took place in order to open the road to negotiations. Regrettably, this has been lost. In my opinion, all efforts should be devoted to liberate the land. If relations between Jordan and the PLO are frozen, the situation will be very difficult and will have bad and dangerous repercussions. I fear that this situation will have bad effects for citizens in the West Bank and Gaza as happened in April 1983. All I can say now is that his majesty's speech will have a strong and positive effect on the course of events and [word indistinct] public opinion in the West Bank because the future of the people here is at stake.

[Shahid] Do you believe that this Jordanian decision will affect Jordanian-Egyptian and Jordanian-Syrian relations?

[Frayj] In my opinion, Egypt was not surprised at the Jordanian decision, nor was Syria.

[Shahid] This was Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj's comment on the Jordanian decision announced in King Husayn's speech.

Further Details

JN201851 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Telephone interview with Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj by unidentified radio correspondent; date and place not given]

[Text] [Ilyas Frayj] I hope that the separation between the Palestinian and Jordanian leaderships will not last a long time because this would greatly harm the citizens of the occupied territory. I appeal to the Palestinian leadership to work quickly in order to save the situation. Undoubtedly, the king was clear, frank, and daring in his speech. He dotted the i's and crossed the t's. The speech greatly embarrassed the PLO leadership. We are waiting to hear the PLO's frank and positive response.

[Correspondent] In your opinion, what is the impression now prevailing in the West Bank after King Husayn's speech?
[Frayj] I affirm that the speech made a very strong impression on the people of the West Bank and Gaza. The citizens are waiting to hear what the PLO will say. They are also waiting for comments and statements that may be issued by Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and others. However, there are fears about the future. The future here is very dark after 19 years of occupation. Is this a (?turning point)? Will the occupation continue forever after the freezing of relations?

[Correspondent] When you say that the king has dotted the i's and crossed the t's, does this mean that you support what King Husayn said?

[Frayj] I immediately supported King Husayn's speech because he was clear and frank. The king based what he said on facts. My opinion is known. I have always said that the military solution does not exist and our Arab situation shows this. There is a political solution only, and the political solution would be under the umbrella of an international conference based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. There would be no harm at all in accepting these two resolutions.

AL-FAJR Editorial

TA201942 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 20 Feb 86 pp 1, 5

[Editorial: "The Palestinian-Jordanian Relations Continue"]

[Text] In his long speech delivered yesterday King Husayn analyzed in detail the Jordanian position regarding political moves, and surveyed the pillars on which Jordan builds its policy, as well as his own view of the situation in the region.

King Husayn expounded on the three Israeli options, which are: The Labor Party's plan which calls for partial withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, known as "the Jordanian option"; the Likud's view to annex the land and not give the Palestinians their legitimate rights; and the third view calling for the annexation of the land and expulsion of the Palestinians by force.

King Husayn announced the failure of the recent talks between the PLO and Jordan because of lack of identity of views between the two sides. After a quick reading of his speech it becomes clear to an observer that the PLO and Jordan agree that the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples are facing the same Israeli expansionist policy, and that both sides do not accept the proposed Israeli plans as a basis for a settlement.

The views of the two sides are also compatible with regard to the resolutions of the Fes summit as well as the Arab peace plan emanating from this summit, which was adopted by the Palestine National Council in its 16th and 17th sessions and endorsed by the Jordanian Government.

The element of difference in interpretation lies in the problem of acceptance of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Jordan, as a state, recognizes these two resolutions because they deal with boundaries and not with the issue of a people, while the PLO does not recognize these resolutions as it is a national liberation movement fighting for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, foremost of which is the right to self-determination. Therefore, as far as the PLO is concerned, the overriding issue is to guarantee the Palestinian rights. At a time when Jordan is asking for land before rights, the PLO is insisting that the rights and the land are linked together and cannot be separated.

However, the Jordanian king stressed that his country is committed to the resolutions of the 1974 Rabat summit which recognized the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people -- wherever they may be. He also affirmed that Jordan will strive for a comprehensive solution by means of an international conference attended by all the parties in the conflict, headed by the PLO and Syria. He also emphasized that Palestinian-Jordanian relations are still governed by the Amman agreement, and this is the same emphasis on adherence to the agreement as announced by brother Abu 'Ammar. If anyone is to be blamed for the failure of the talks, it is the American side which, by rejecting the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people, did nothing to ensure the success of the talks.

'Slap' at 'Arafat

TA202132 Jerusalem AL-MITHAQ in Arabic 20 Feb 86 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "A New Slap and Two Options"]

[Text] The new and powerful slap dealt this time by Jordan to the official leadership in the PLO, as with previous slaps, was not unexpected because the new approach adopted by 'Arafat bypassed the desires and aspirations of the Palestinian people. We see in this new and powerful slap, implicit in the Jordanian king's speech, the definite result of the approach and option adopted by this leadership.

We definitely believe that this slap was meant to restrict the options open to the official leadership to two only: total and complete surrender to the U.S.-Israeli conditions for a settlement, or the replacement of this leadership with some personalities from the territories. Notably, this slap was administered after Jordan benefited from previous concessions by this leadership and had consolidated its positions inside the territories, whether by means of the joint committee or through the excellent relations established with this leadership under the watchword of seeking settlements. In addition to this Israel, America, and the rest of NATO countries have acted and continue to act in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the official interest of Jordan, supported by and sometimes with the open blessing of right-wing Palestinians, as in the case of appointments to municipality councils — the current topic.

If we take into consideration what followed previous slaps to the official leadership, as well as 'Arafat's recent visit to the Egyptian Camp David regime, the nature of this leadership, and its statements regarding the recent American smoke screen, it becomes apparent to us that despite the new slap dealt to this leadership it will continue to promote American solutions as it has in the past. We emphasize this reality to some of those who earlier considered the possibility that the leadership might retreat and at the same time we stress that the options of retreat will remain open only on one condition, namely, that the forces opposed to the official leadership's approach are united, inducing the PLO to return to its national line opposed to imperialism.

Morning Editorials

TA210738 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 21 Feb 86

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Text] *HA'ARETZ* says that Husayn's speech fell on many inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip like thunder, and they are not expected to recover quickly. The blame for closing the door on a solution to their problem has been laid directly at the feet of the PLO leader. They will now have to understand that there can be no hope from the direction of 'Arafat and company. The defense minister and prime minister have appealed to them to draw the logical conclusion from the disappointment experienced by Husayn. We will now have to wait a while for balanced reactions from Arab leaders in the territories. If an awakening begins among them, it would be very desirable for Richard Murphy and his people not to interfere by continuing to act as the PLO's advocates.

DAVAR writes that while one can agree to parts of King Husayn's sharp comments on the present freeze in the peace process, but no conclusions can be found in his remarks on what must be done. It is possible that by his blunt remarks the king meant to exert more pressure on the PLO. If that was his purpose, he will probably be disappointed. If Husayn is really convinced that time is running out, both due to the urgency of the matter at hand and due to the approaching rotation in the Israeli Government, then he must show daring and enter the peace process as soon as possible, accompanied by reasonable Palestinian representatives from the territories. His speech — if it was not merely a futile exercise directed at the PLO — points toward the negotiating table. His analysis, which confirmed what the inhabitants of the territories already know, should bring them to the realization that the PLO offers them no advantage. Instead they must take their fate into their own hands and negotiate with Israel, with King Husayn or without him.

HATZOFE writes that this is the first time an Arab leader has admitted in public that the PLO is an obstacle to peace. From Israel's point of view this is the only real achievement. Other achievements cannot be perceived; even if King Husayn agrees to continue secret contacts with Israel, in the future, he will not be able to make peace with Israel because for this he needs support — if not the PLO's at least that of the Palestinians in Judaea and Samaria. All signs indicate that it is doubtful that he can find supporters among the Palestinians. So from the political point of view, it can be said that nothing has changed.

THE JERUSALEM POST believes that although Husayn's purpose is to force 'Arafat to accept Jordan's terms, he may be creating a fresh opportunity for peace talks. If that opportunity emerges, it will be due primarily to the peace policy pursued by Shim'on Peres and to Husayn's justified fear that after the scheduled political rotation in Israel there will be no one to negotiate with and nothing to negotiate about.

HAMODI'A writes that one of the questions to be asked following the failure of Husayn's efforts, is whether the prime minister will try to implement unilateral autonomy. It is doubtful that he can obtain the agreement of his government, because even close Alignment members differ with him on this issue. This idea carries a serious security risk. However, it is very doubtful that he will obtain partners on this issue from the Palestinian population. Nobody among that population would be willing to risk his life by disobeying the PLO. Nevertheless, this political move also appears to be part of the efforts to improve Israel's image, an exercise which has so far proved successful.

Peres, Labor Party Members

TA210933 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Feb 86 pp 1, 13

[Report by Mikhal Yudelman, Roy Isacowitz and Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv — King Husayn speech Wednesday was the strongest condemnation of the PLO's role in blocking peace ever made by a responsible Arab leader, Prime Minister Peres said yesterday. "Until now we've been attacked for not negotiating with the PLO. Husayn has been negotiating with the PLO for a year, and what did he get out of it?" Peres said, addressing lawyers here.

"I already said weeks ago that 'Arafat has nothing to offer the residents of the administered territories and Husayn fully confirmed what Europe, too, will realize now: that the PLO does not want to solve the Palestinian problem, but to exploit it in order to maintain its organization." It was now up to the residents of the West Bank and Gaza to take matters into their own hands and start representing themselves, Peres said in a seperate address at Tel Aviv University.

Likud sources, who were agreed that the speech did nothing to advance the cause of peace, nevertheless pointedly refrained from attacking Labour's responses, apparently in an effort to avoid exacerbating coalition disputes.

The general reaction in Labour was satisfaction that the so-called "PLO option" had been discredited, tempered by an awareness that peace talks with Jordan appeared no nearer. But Labour MK Mikha Harish, who heads the committee preparing his party's diplomatic position paper, said the speech could herald a new peace initiative. He cautioned, however, that it would be several weeks at least before the speech's effects became clear. Israel must now begin "thinking unilaterally," Harish said, meaning unilateral autonomy, or independent negotiations with Palestinians in the West Bank or in Jordan. Labour's programme on the territories will only be drawn up in late March, on the eve of the party's convention.

Labour MKS also said that, while the speech put an end to the PLO option, it made the rotation that much more likely, because with no palpable Arab peace effort under way, the party will have to honour the rotation agreement.

AL-TALI'AH: Abrogate Amman Agreement

TA202142 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 20 Feb 86 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "What After the King's Address?"]

[Text] King Husayn's speech constituted a clear defense of the benefit of moving toward America, and extolled the results which he reached in his talks with the United States.

However, the main point in the king's address was his declaration on ending political coordination with the official leadership, his accusation that it reneged on its commitments, and his appeal to the Palestinian people, particularly in the occupied territories, "to rectify the process" as noted in the speech. The king's assessment of his moves and his praise for the results reached by him are seen to be greatly exaggerated when subjected to a thorough review. The U.S. Administration's agreement on the participation of the PLO in the international conference after it announces its endorsement of Security Council Resolution 242, means nothing so long as the U.S. Administration has not agreed to vest any powers in that conference. There is no guarantee whatsoever that it will grant effective power, especially when the final say in this connection will belong to the Israeli Government.

The official leadership's endorsement of Security Council Resolution 242 will be, in this instance, a concession with nothing gained in return because this conference will not be held so long as its powers are not determined or are insufficient. And so long as Syria and the Soviet Union do not participate in this international conference, it will not have complete powers.

Despite this, King Husayn clarified sufficiently his plan for the future, which is: Adherence to the Amman agreement, without the official leadership, and "referring the matter anew to the lecterns of Palestinian dialogue in the occupied territories and the diaspora." This means that presently the occupied territories will witness another campaign, similar to the one that preceded the signing of the Amman agreement, to endorse the Jordanian position.

At any rate the situation will depend on the reaction of the official leadership to the Jordanian address. However, there is one important and clear element, namely, that "shrewd" and "cunning" methods and playing with words do not constitute a political move and do not fool anyone, and in the end will backfire on those who practice them.

It if was a positive thing for the official leadership to refuse endorsement, in return for nothing, of Security Council Resolution 242, nevertheless its actions in accordance with the Amman agreement helped King Husayn to put it in the dock, in his speech on the basis of standards he had agreed upon with the leadership.

If the Amman agreement was conditional on and for the sake of a joint movement, as the official leadership said on signing it, King Husayn's ending of this joint movement requires this leadership to abrogate the agreement and renounce all its articles.

Peres Supports New Economic Growth Phase

TA201755 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] The prime minister has stated that the Labor Party will not be part of a government that creates unemployment and destroys agriculture, industry, and the development towns. In a meeting of the Labor Party Central Committee, Mr Peres said he fully supports the Histadrut's demand to fight rising unemployment and to draw up an emergency plan for employment in the development towns. He is in no rush to begin the economic growth phase, Peres said, but noted that in his opinion economic conditions do not allow for further procrastination. To achieve this growth, the prime minister emphasized, there is no need to print money or to harm savings schemes.

Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that the prime minister again criticized the finance minister and the Likud which have been rejoicing over the economic plan as if they had been the ones who initiated it. Histadrut Secretary General Yisra'el Qeysar stated that it had not been for the Histadrut's cooperation the finance minister would not have been able to carry out any part of the economic plan.

Alignment Supports Peres

TA201222 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] The Alignment Knesset faction has decided to support the prime minister's demand to resume growth in the economy. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that the Labor Party Central Committee will convene shortly to adopt a decision on this issue.

In the Knesset faction meeting, the prime minister criticized the finance minister and the Likud because, according to him, they oppose the continuation of the economic plan. Mr Peres called on the Alignment not to be alarmed by the Likud's reactions, and said he is convinced the growth will succeed.

The prime minister said that in his meeting tomorrow with the Likud representatives, he will demand that they agree to resumption of growth and to the establishment of a joint ministerial committee which will deal with this matter. He will also demand a re-examination of the political appointments made to date.

Continuing Reportage on Search for IDF Soldiers

Peres Says Search To Continue

TA201818 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1705 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] This evening Prime Minister Shim'on Peres promised that we will not ease up on the activity in southern Lebanon until the traces of the kidnapped soldiers are found, until the kidnappers are punished.

[Begin Peres recording] The IDF is now deployed in southern Lebanon. It is not looking for territory, it is not looking for water, it is not looking for politics. We have no interest in any swimming [as heard] or annexation of Lebanon. But the IDF will not ease up until it finds traces of the two missing soldiers and those who kidnapped them are punished. [end recording]

On the matter of terrorism, the prime minister was today asked for a reaction to the speech King Husayn made yesterday. At the Labor Party Central Committee meeting, faced with dozens of correspondents, microphones, and cameras from Israel and abroad, the prime minister emphasized that yesterday Husayn said of the PLO what has already been said in Israel.

[Begin Peres recording] Husayn did not slam the door on a continuation of the peace negotiations and I invite him to pull the cart of peace, together, in the future, [wild applause] until it reaches its destination. I invite the inhabitants of the territories to get up on that cart [laughter] because terrorism could cause us to suffer as victims, but, for them, it is jeopardizing their future; it is eroding their goals and if they do not take matters into their own hands in time, the time could disappear. [end recording]

'Sabotage Material' Seized

TA201317 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] A katyusha rocket fired from the north landed today in the Marj 'Uyun area in southern Lebanon, but no damage was caused. Another katyusha rocket landed in the same area yesterday as well. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the IDF is still conducting searches in southern Lebanon and also today it seized large quantities of weapons and sabotage material.

UNIFIL Soldier Wounded

TA201841 Jerusalem Domestic service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] This afternoon a UN soldier from the Irish unit received stomach wounds from shots fired by a soldier from the army of southern Lebanon [ASL]. He was hospitalized in the UN hospital in Al-Naqurah. The UNIFIL headquarters told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that an ASL convoy passed by the Irish battalion's command headquarters in the village of Bra'shit and all of a sudden bursts were fired into the camp from one of the trucks. The Irish soldier was hit while resting in his room. The United Nations has submitted a sharp protest over the incident to the IDF.

Commander Comments on Search

TA210617 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0505 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] An IDF soldier, Sergeant Alon Ben-Shahar, who was killed yesterday in a clash with terrorists in the village of Srifa, will be buried today in Jerusalem. In the exchanges of fire which ensued, eight armed terrorists were killed. The searches are apparently continuing. Here is our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal:

[Begin recording] [Tal] Following 4 days of searches in southern Lebanon, it appears that the IDF is carrying out an old threat made when the army was withdrawing from Lebanon and deploying in the security zone. Nobody will call it a scorched earth policy, but the intensive searches have a devastating effect on southern Lebanon. Again we have columns of tanks and armored personnel carriers, search forces moving under protection; men are being concentrated in mosques or schools; and katyushas, explosives, RPG launchers, ammunition, and weapons are being found in houses. Again there are clashes, mainly with Shi'ites, during attempts to find a lead regarding the kidnapped soldiers. And again curfews are being imposed on villages in the south, and the IDF, just as in the period before the withdrawal, is faced with hostile Shi'ite resistance.

Ori Or, commander of the Northern Command, hastened to the village of Srifa, north of Tibnin, yesterday. A year ago his forces searched that village and found terrorists and weapons. Yesterday fire was opened at the search forces and Sergeant Alon Ben-Shahar of Jerusalem was killed. The IDF returned heavy fire and eight terrorists were killed.

[Or] I arrived during the incident. We returned thee fire from artillery and all other weapons we had in the area. After fire was opened and they suffered casualties, our men were extricated from the site.

[Tal] Are there any new orders concerning the movement and operation of forces in this sector, due to the danger involved and the fact that soldiers are being wounded?

[Or] The orders are not new; they are old. According to these orders every patrol or other activity should be conducted in the safest way. However, there is no doubt that when we are deployed over a broad territory, which is partly hostile, people may indeed be hurt, God forbid.

[Tal] What are the plans now?

[Or] As long as there is a chance for some kind of sign, or anything else that will show that the soldiers are on one side or the other, we will continue with the searches. During these searches we are locating very large quantities of weapons everywhere, including in UNIFIL areas. However, the main emphasis is on out two missing soldiers; the IDF is obliged to doing everything possible to locate them, or at least to discover indications of where they are.

[Tal] The searches will continue today as well. So far the IDF is holding several dozen suspects. Thousands have been interrogated so far, and it is possible that as the searches continue there will be more firing incidents.

The IDF is activating infantry forces, tanks, and assault helicopters. The order is to avoid unnecessary risks, and this means sharp artillery, helicopter, and tank reaction, with all it entails. [end recording]

Further Details

TA202120 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2100 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that after the incident in which an IDF soldier was killed, IDF troops identified more terrorists in the village of Srifa. For almost 2 hours, our soldiers directed fire from cannons, tanks, and helicopters at the village.

This afternoon the IDF allowed Finnish troops of UNIFIL to walk into the village and to extend medical treatment and to evacuate some of the wounded from the Tyre area. The Finnish soldiers are still in the village.

U.S. Requests Freedom for UNIFIL

TA210538 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Excerpts] An Israeli soldier has been killed in south Lebanon in an encounter with terrorists, and katyusha rockets have been fired into Upper Galilee but no one was hurt. More details from Jack Katzenell:

[Begin recording] Several katyusha rockets were fired last night into the Galilee panhandle and western Galilee, but nobody was hurt. It is believed that they were fired from the area of Lebanon, north of the security zone, in retaliation by the terrorists for the Israeli Army search operation.

The United States has asked Israel not to restrict the movements of UNIFIL or to hinder the UN force in the execution of its duties. The request was made by officials at the U.S. Embassy in Israel in meetings with Israeli Foreign Ministry officials. In Washington U.S. officials have given assurances that the administration will try to raise the money needed for the continued operation of UNIFIL. The administration was convinced that there was no alternative to UNIFIL to ensure certain arrangements in southern Lebanon. Israel has indicated that UNIFIL hampers the Israeli operations against hostile elements and is therefore a nuisance. [end recording]

IDF Soldier Killed in Srifa Clash

TA201917 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] At noon an IDF soldier was killed during the searches being carried out in southern Lebanon. His family has been informed. The IDF spokesman reported that at noon an IDF force which was combing the village of Srifa was fired upon. The force returned fire. Eight armed terrorists were killed in the exchange. Weapons were found in their possession. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that after the patrol was fired upon the IDF returned fire with tanks and assault helicopters at the house from which the fire was directed at our soldiers.

Correspondents from the news agencies say that the village of Srifa has been searched more than any other village during the IDF searches. The correspondent reported that they saw about 80 terrorists in the village and this afternoon other armed fighter from other villages joined them.

Shi'ite Clerics, Hizballah Members Flee

TA201011 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Reports from Sidon and the Al-Zahrani area say that pro-Hizballah clerics as well as many members of the organization have fled to Beirut and the Lebanese Al-Biqa' out of fear of IDF retaliatory action. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht notes that these clerics have denounced Amal members for not acting against the IDF units searching the Shi'ite villages.

General Or, Herzog Comment

TA201854 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Report by military correspondent Shmu'el Tal, live in the studio]

[Text] Throughout the day, IDF forces continued to search the villages in southern Lebanon. Altogether, some 20 villages were combed. The kidnapped soldiers were not found, but the forces searching for them discovered large quantities of weapons. The commander of the Northern Command, Major General Ori Or, sums up today's searches:

[Begin Or recording] All our units continued to carry out combing operations in the area we are in. The main objective is to discover, to find a sign, a mark that could indicate where the soldiers are or to give us some sort of help toward another solution. As long as we have no real information as to where the soldiers are, we will continue the searches. In the course of the searches, dozens of katyusha rockets were discovered, as well as 22 RPG's, 107 katyushas [as heard], and quantities of other weapons, both inside UNIFIL areas beside UNIFIL positions and in other areas.

As long as we feel that there is any chance that we have not exhausted all the information that can be found in the field, we will continue with the searches. We will invest every effort and every effort by our soldiers to discover the two missing soldiers. I think that this is the most important trait of IDF soldiers, to search for their missing comrades and I repeat, during those searches we discovered additional squads which worked against us right up to the latest incident and enormous quantities of weapons. [end recording]

[Tal] IDF forces entered the villages, assembled the inhabitants, and, before the searches began, explained to them the aim of the searches. They stressed that the intention is to find people suspected of attacks and find the traces of the kidnapped soldiers. As stated, there were no soldiers [as heard] but katyushas were found in cellars which could have hit Nahariyya from the places where they were discovered. RPG launchers and explosive charges all ready to be detonated were also found, particularly around Tibnin and Al-Sultaniyah.

Today, Israeli President Hayim Herzog, in reply to a question about the reports originating in Beirut that one soldier has been executed, said to us: I hope there is no truth in this.

[Begin Herzog recording] My first reaction is to think about the families and I pray that this is just an announcement and does not reflect an act. This has happened before. I hope the boys are still alive and that we will still find them. We can be proud of the fact that, throughout all the years of the state's existence, there has been a tradition and it still continues in the IDF, not to leave a wounded man in the battlefield and also not to abandon our prisoners. Therefore, for all the years since the establishment of the state, we emphasized this and it is only recently that we have also realized this and we brought the boys home. I hope that this will also occur this time. [end recording]

[Tal] That was the state president. Well, despite the bad news from Beirut and the fears here, IDF forces are continuing the search today and tonight and tomorrow they will also search until they find the kidnapped soldiers or until we find out beyond any shadow of a doubt what happened to them.

10 'Terrorists' Killed

TA201721 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Ten terrorists were killed in the last 3 days in the Jazzin area in clashes with army of southern Lebanon troops.

'Secret' Talks Held With U.S. on 'Sensitive' Exports

TA200952 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Feb 86 p 1

["Exclusive" report from the United States by Amir Oren]

[Text] Washington — Israel and the United States have been engaged in secret contacts over an agreement for the control of direct and indirect exports of sensitive technological items to Eastern Bloc countries. In the second stage, the United States might try to incorporate Israel into COCOM [Coordinating Committee on Exports Controls], the NATO committee which supervises exports from the West to the East. Joining COCOM will for the first time grant Israel the status of member in a body which is de facto, if not in name, affiliated with NATO.

However, this could result in the exposure of Israeli defense and commercial secrets to European competitors such as France, unless the U.S. initiative aimed at making Israel the second non-NATO member of COCOM (after Japan) fails.

The Reagan administration has consistently taken action, both in the United States and in multi-partisan contacts, to tighten control of the export of technological wares and other goods that can be used for military purposes to the Eastern Bloc countries, from where sensitive items can reach the East. [sentence as published]

The administration is also interested in formalizing its ties with Israel in this regard, first by way of a bilateral memorandum of understanding, followed by the possibility of adding Israel as a member of COCOM.

ALGERIA

Messaadia Meets with PLO's Salah Khalaf

LD192354 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, Politburo member and official in charge of the FLN Central Committee Permanent Secretariat, received a Palestinian delegation led by Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], member of the Fatah Central Committee, this afternoon. The recent developments on the Palestinian scene, in general, and the situation in the occupied territories, in particular, were reviewed during this meeting. The Arab issues, East and West, also were one of the main topics of this meeting which was attended by Brother Sadouk Zouatin, who is in charge of the Friendship and Solidarity with Peoples Council, and Abu al-'Izz, PLO representative in Algeria.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends 'Open Letter' to American People

NC202029 Paris AFP in English 2006 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, Feb 20 (AFP) — Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi today called on Americans to press their government for better relations with Arab countries in conformity with "the unique ideals of the great American revolution."

Col. al-Qadhdhafi, in an open letter to Americans given to U.S. national Muhammad Mahdi, chairman of the Arab-American Relations Committee, also denounced terrorism and claimed Libya is "in the footsteps" of the American revolution.

"I'm writing to you as sons and daughters of George Washington, of Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln," Col. al-Qadhdhafi wrote in his letter, according to a translation by Mr. Mahdi. "You are the inheritors of the ideals of the great American revolution which was carried out against tyranny," Col. al-Qadhdhafi said, adding that Libya is "in the footsteps of your revolution, concerned with progress and development at home and liberation movements abroad."

Col. al-Qadhdhafi, whom Washington accuses of harbouring and promoting international terrorists, said Libya was "of course against terrorism" and condemned it "whether carried out by individuals, groups or states."

He then appealed to Americans to do their "utmost" for "better ties with other nations based on mutual respect and cooperation." "Better relations between the American people and the Arab nation are in the interest of the two peoples as well as in the interest of humanity," Col. al-Qadhdhafi also said.

Libya, he added, "is confident that the American people will call upon their administration to conform its foreign policy to the unique ideals of the great American revolution, in the interests of justice, freedom and peace."

Mr. Mahdi, whose organization is based in New York, is visiting Libya in defiance of President Ronald Reagan's ban for Americans to visit or live here after February 1. The ban was imposed last month along with economic reprisals ordered for Libya's alleged involvement in the December terrorist attacks at Rome and Vienna airports, in which 19 people were killed.

Mr. Mahdi said he was not a revolutionary, but a civil rights fighter and that he was challenging Mr. Reagan's ban because it was unconsitutional. He also said he had first visited Libya 40 years ago and could now confirm the progress achieved by Col. al-Qadhdhafi's regime.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Sidra Maneuvres Participants

LD201457 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution and the supreme commander of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces made a visit this morning to a naval base and met a number of officers, noncommissioned officers and soldiers who participated in the manueuvers by the Libyan Arab Navy, the Air Force, and the Air Defense Force in the Mediterranean from 8 to 18 February.

The brother leader made a speech greeting the officers, the noncoms officers, and soldiers. Upon his arrival at the naval base, the leader reviewed the honor guard assembled to greet him, while the officers, noncoms and soldiers of the base surrounded the brother leader chanting loudly: "Long live the great Al-Fatih revolution". They also declared their resolution to bravely resist the American imperialist and Zionist conspiracies, provocations, and threats and to execute the order of death anytime and anywhere in defense of the Libyan Arab people's revolution, and its cultural achievements. They emphasized that the Gulf of Sidra is a Libyan Arab gulf for which they are prepared to die.

The brother leader afterwards toured some naval units where he listened to detailed explanations on the duties of these units and their combat capabilities.

Jallud Addresses Forum on Confronting U.S., Israel

LD202247 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0720 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Feb (JANA) — Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud yesterday morning attended the emergency session of the Central Council of the International Federation of Arab Workers Trade Unions at the headquarters of the Producer's Federation in Tripoli. This session is being held in order to reaffirm the stand by the side of the Libyan Arab people and its revolutionary leadership in its brave resistance to the American imperialist and Zionist threats and plots.

Staff Major Jallud made a speech at the opening session in which he spoke about the morally and materially defeated Arab will, due to the effect of repression, exploitation, and pressure as practised by Arab rulers on Arab citizens. Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud said also that unions, trade unions, and parliaments, about which Arab rulers brag, are in fact a falsification of democracy and a distortion of present reality.

Staff Major Jallud emphasized in his speech in front of the Central Council of the International Federation of Arab Workers Trade Unions that the Arab nationalist existence is under greater threat than ever before, and the Arabs have become more convinced of the truth of the warnings of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution, when we declared that the Zionist train of death will run over the Arab homeland, one country after another. Staff Major Jallud pointed out that the enemies of the Arab nation are conspiring against any Arab victory and underestimating it with the aim of tearing this nation apart and making it incapable of consolidating its victories. He recalled the American imperialist demands and calls to Libya to stop supporting the Palestinian revolution and not to oppose American conspiracies against the cause of the Arab nation nor support the liberation movements in the world which are fighting for their freedom. This is done out of America's realization of the greatness and importance of the Libyan Arab revolutionary role in the resistance against U.S. policy which is hostile to the aspirations of the Arab nation.

He also emphasized that Libya is fighting for the victory of the Arab nation and its comprehensive unity against which the U.S. stands, pointing out that Reagan has decided to put an end to all the victories of the Third World and to the aspirations of the developing peoples who seek to change the economic system and the redistribution of resources, and to spread technology in the developing world.

Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud pointed out that the OPEC countries have achieved victories due to the Great Al-Fatih Revolution, which has led the oil revolution of the world and which now faces American and reactionary campaigns which aim to steal and harm these victories by means of economic chaos and threats of economic and military blockades.

He also emphasized that the United States, which the Libyan Arab people and its revolutionary leadership have resisted, wants us to bow our heads to it, believing that it holds all the cards, to glorify its name, make its black house our holy shrine, and describes the struggle of the Palestinian people and the struggle of the peoples of South Africa, Namibia, and El Salvador, as terrorism.

In his speech, Staff Major Jallud called for a method to protect the pan-Arab revival which has arisen in the Arab land — in Libya, Lebanon, Sudan, and other countries. He also called for resistance against U.S. arrogance and the Zionist rampage and for turning the tables on U.S. imperialism and moving from defense to attack, depending, for this purpose, on the sons of the Arab nation and not on the Arab rulers.

Staff Major Jallud also declared that what is being presented to the Arab nation is the method of transforming the confrontation with America to a total pan-Arab confrontation which will restore to the Arab people their vitality and pan-Arabism, and will encourage initiative in confronting America. He emphasized that this proposal will not be realized by the Arab governments and their party organizations, but by the Arab masses in the Arab world.

MOROCCO

Chamber Speaker Sends Message of Support to Iraq

LD201849 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Rabat, Feb 20 (MAP) — Speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives Ahmed Osman sent a message to his Iraqi counterpart Sa'dun al-Hammadi, in which he strongly condemned the recent Iranian offensive against Iraq, expressing full support to Iraq.

"The (Moroccan) House of Representatives", said the message, "is following with great concern the tense situation in the Arab Gulf, particularly after the last aggression.... which proves once again the intransigence and the absence of sense of responsibility of the Iranian leaders".

Stressing the "dangerous implications of the new Iranian aggression", and the blow it dealt "initiatives seeking to put an end to this war", M. Osman expressed the "full and unconditional support" of the Moroccan House of Representatives to Iraq in its combat to "defend its sovereignty". The message also expressed hope that clearsightedness will prevail and that Iranian leaders will give up their plans of spreading this destructive war, both to Muslims and Arabs. The message concluded by lauding the Iraqi position of being always ready to peacefully settle this conflict.

Relatedly, the Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Cooperation Tuesday released a communique in Paris warning all peace loving powers against "the dangerous that the new Iranian offensives represents to their vital interests and to the security of the gulf".

The association calls on Western powers to "make collectively an initiative.... for a negotiated, peaceful and comprehensive settlement" of the conflict guaranteeing both countries' rights. The association warns particularly against the dangers of extension of this conflict and the "threats it represents to world peace".

Lebanese President Arrives for Private Visit

LD202038 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Lebanese Presdient Amin al-Jumayyil arrived in Marrakech this morning from Rome on a private visit to Morocco. Accompanying the Lebanese president were his wife and several officials. He was received at Marrakesh-Minarah airport by Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed; Her Royal Highness Princess Lala Asma'; Minister of State Moulay Ahmed Alaoui; Interior Minister Dris Basri; and his majesty the king's advisers Ahmed Ridha Guedira, Ahmed Ben Souda, and Mohamed Awwad. Also at the airport were the Lebanese ambassador in Morocco and his majesty's governor of Marrakech Province.

SUDAN

Daf'allah Comments on Austerity, IMF, USSR Ties

JN201017 Khartoum SUNA in English 0923 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum Feb 20 (SUNA) — The Cabinet has decided to impose new austerity measures to halt the smuggling and importation of unnecessary commodities besides controlling the exchange rate of hard currencies and organizing internal and external trade, Premier al-Jazuli Daf'allah told the daily *AL-AYYAM* issued here today. He added that new taxes would be imposed on some sectors.

Referring to the decision of the International Monetary Fund IMF, to cut off credits to Sudan, Dr. Daf'allah affirmed the government has started considering bolster of national economy through bilateral economic agreements with a number of countries.

The premier explained that Sudan follows a nonalignment policy pointing out to the efforts exerted to boost the relations between Sudan and the Eastern bloc countries. He further added that a high level delegation would next March visit the Soviet Union to discuss cooperation in all fields. A number of embassies were reopened in many of the Eastern Bloc states he stated.

As regards talks with the IMF Daf'allah said that his government did not close the doors before the negotiations with the IMF, which adjourned till next March the payment of Sudan's outstanding arrears. In case of an agreement with the IMF we can resume dealing with it, Daf'allah affirmed.

Foreign Affairs Minister on Rebels, Okello

JN201044 Khartoum SUNA in English 1010 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Jeddah Feb 20 (SUNA) — Sudan has accepted the mediation of Egypt Uganda Tanzania and Kenya for solving the southern question through dialogue, said Foreign Affairs Minister Ibrahim Taha Ayyub. In a statement to the Saudi *'UKAZ* paper Ayyub said John Garang refused any contact with the chairman of the TMC and the prime minister.

On the presence of Ugandan deposed leader General Okello in Sudan he said the Ugandan Government has accepted Sudan's proposal for offering him pardon and treating him as a former president. Gen. Okello, he added, would hold negotiations in Khartoum with the new Ugandan government for reaching a peaceful settlement. It is to be recalled that former Ugandan President Gen. Okello was deposed beginning of this year by the then leader of the main guerrilla group the national resistance army Yoweri Museyeni and in turn was sworn in as the new president of Uganda.

Cabinet Discusses Strikes, Economic Topics

JN171127 Khartoum SUNA in English 1045 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum, Feb. 17, (SUNA) — The cabinet in its regular meeting yesterday discussed the phenomenon of strike and the threat by some trade unions to walk out from work unless they [are] offered better working conditions. The meeting under the Chairmanship of Premier al-Jazuli Daf'allah discussed also the draft law of the Industrial Bank for the year 1986 presented by Finance and Economic Planning Dr. Sayyid Ahmad Tayfur. The draft law was worked out to cope will the national and international development in the industrial sector. The cabinet has passed the draft law and submitted it to the attorney general chamber to formulate it in its final form.

The Council of Ministers' yesterday meeting approved the recommendations laid down by the technical committee entrusted to observe the reinstatement of those who dismissed arbitrarily or for political reasons.

The cabinet also approved in principle the agreement between Sudan and the British Children Relief Organization presented by Health and Social Welfare Minister Dr. Husayn Abu Salih. Under this agreement the British Children Relief Organization will bolster health services in the national capital.

On the other hand, the cabinet spokesman yesterday issued a statement in which he called on all the sectors in the country to stop the strike phenomenon and asked them to suspend all their demands at least in this very period where the country is faced by economic crisis. The statement appealed to all trade unions to play their pioneer role in supporting the national economy.

The spokesman in his statement enlighted the efforts exerted by the government to clinch the differences in hierarchal salary conditions. He added that all the ministers are currently exerting efforts with the different groupings and trade unions in a bid to reach acceptable formulas as regards the deteriorating economic situations. The statement also asked the whole masses to double the production to enable the country (?to overcome) the economic difficulties.

Trade Unions: Regime To Stay in Power Beyond 26 Apr

HK200442 Hong Kong AFP in English 0332 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 20 (AFP) — Sudan's Trade Union Alliance has accused the country's ruling military council of seeking to stay in power after the end of the transitional period it set for April 26. The alliance, a member along with several political parties in the National Alliance for salvation, called on Sudanese to "stand firmly" against such plans, which it said were against the aims and aspirations of the Sudanese people.

It charged that the council's rejection of representation of trade unions and other "modern" groups such as doctors, lawyers, teachers, and engineers in the planned constituent assembly was an attempt to exclude elements which led the successful revolt against the regime of President Ja'far Numayri last April.

The council has ruled that the assembly will comprise deputies chosen in general elections on a party basis as well as 28 seats reserved for university graduates. The alliance has stressed that representation of professionals, workers and farmers is vital for the maintenance of democracy.

Five Political Detainees Released From Prison

JN161905 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1738 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Feb (SUNA) — Five political detainees, who served the defunct regime, were released here today for lack of evidence for keeping them in prison. Attorney General 'Umar 'Abd al-'Ati said that there were no charges against them and no need to question them.

The political detainees, who were released, are: Muhammad 'Abd al-Qadir, former secretary general of the dissolved SSU; 'Awad al-Jid, the deposed president's adviser for legal affairs; Kamil Muhjub, a leader of the dissolved SSU; Fadlallah Muhammad, former editor in chief of the newspaper *AL-SAHAFAH*; and Ibrahim 'Abd al-Qayyum, former editor in chief of the newspaper *AL-AYYAM*.

Chevron Official 'Disappointed' in Oil Exploration

JN171133 Khartoum SUNA in English 1050 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 17 (SUNA) — U.S. Chevron Oil Company, which is exploring for oil in Sudan, today quoted as saying that it was disappointed by the results of its exploration operations in Western Sudan. It is the first time, adversarily to its earlier announcements, that the company declares the failure of oil quest operation since it began drilling wells in Al-Muglad area in Western Sudan. In the recent years at least three wells were said to be producing oil commercially and along with other minor ones would give a 22000 barrel a day in addition to large amount of oil reserve in the said area.

Today disclosure by the daily *AL-AYYAM* quoted the Director of Chevron Sudan Company however said the company will continue quest despite the fiasco operations by Chevron oil-rich region to the south was halted since 1984 due to the lack of security which arose as a result of the armed activities by the Southern Sudanese rebels of Sudan People's Liberation Army led by Col John Garang. [sentence as received]

In his remarks Chevron official affirmed that the company has no intention to abandon the country and said that the company's experts were engaged in intensified talks with Sduanese officials over the future of the drilling operations in the country. The company is embarked on a reserch programme that would enable it to implement its programme for discovering more oil reserve in the country.

The programme aimed at benefitting from the data collected from the drilling of 78 wells and the geophysical surveys that covered more than 60,000 square kms. The programme will be accomplished by the first half of 1987, the daily quoted Chevron director as saying. The company will benefit from these data in the other area of its concession in which the company will concentrate operations in the near future, the daily *AL-AYYAM* quoted the director as saying.

Army Commander Ready for Talks With Garang

PM141333 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Feb 86 pp 1, 2

[*AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* Khartoum bureau report: "General Taj al-Din: Transitional Military Council Welcomes Meeting With Garang To Solve Southern Sudan Problem"]

[Excerpt] The Sudanese Transitional Military Council [TMC] would welome a meeting with Colonel John Garang, leader of the southern mutineers and commander of the so-called "Sudanese People's Liberation Army", in any place to be agreed to and to sit at the negotiating table — if Garang so desires.

This came in a statement to *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* by Lieutenant General Taj al-Din 'Abdallah, commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces and member of the TMC. He confirmed his total readiness to meet with Garang and to negotiate with him as a responsentative of the TMC and the Sudanese Government.

Lt Gen Taj al-Din confirmed recent reports about an agreement reached between him and Gerald, chairman of the American black lawyers organization, to arrange a meeting between himself and Col Garang in order to discuss a solution to the problem of the south.

Military Governor: Garang 'Not Active' in Darfur

JN201528 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Al-Fashir/Sudan, 20 Feb (SUNA) — Major General Abu al-Qasim Yusuf, military governor of the Darfur region, has asserted that John Garang's forces are not active in any part of the region. In a statement to the press today, his excellency said the regional government has examined reports that outlaws are active in the region. After thorough observation, it has become clear that outlaws are not active in the region.

In another development, the military governor stated that the Armed Forces and the regular forces were able to control the security situation in the city of (?Al-Junaynah) after burglaries were carried out by Chadian elements. His excellency added that the campaigns carried out by regular forces in the region resulted in the arrest of a large number of Chadian infiltrators and the recovery of 600 stolen camels.

Chadian Refugees Expected in Darfur Region

JN201507 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Al-Fashir/Sudan, 20 Feb (SUNA) — Major General Abu al-Qasim Yusuf [words indistinct], military governor of the Darfur Region, has instructed the competent circles in the region to transfer to refugee camps the great number of Chadian refugees who are expected to arrive in the region after the outbreak of fierce battles in northern Chad. In a statement to the press today, the military governor added that instructions have been given to the competent circles to make a list of these refugees, seize their weapons, and take the necessary measures to prevent their influx into the country.

SPLA Radio Details Latest Operations

EA180022 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Radio Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] correspondent accompanying SPLA's Nile Battalion under the command of Captain Bagat Akuot attacked enemy positions at Gogrial Town in Bahr al-Ghazal Administrative area on 13th February 1986, taking control of the police and prisons headquarters and the market.

According to the correspondent, SPLA's attack on Gogrial, a district in northern Bahr al-Ghazal, came after a government force, which had left the town to attack the SPLA about one km away from the town, was routed by SPLA's special task force. The fleeing enemy force was then pursued into Gogrial Town, where the SPLA task force launched its attack. The commander of the enemy force, First-Lieutenant Raymon Akuol Kuol, who has been responsible for many government army atrocities against innocent citizens in the area, was killed in the initial stages of the fight. Our correspondent has also supplied a list of government prisons personnel, who, he said, defected to the SPLA as a result of the fighting in Gogrial.

The commander in chief of the SPLA, Colonel Dr John Garang de Mabior, and his deputy Lieutenant-General Carabino Kuanyin Bol, have warmly congratulated Nile Battalion for this achievement and urged to the officers, NCO's and men of the battalion to push ahead till complete victory is achieved over the enemy forces in Bahr al-Ghazal.

Six government soldiers were killed and 15 others were wounded when SPLA forces of Twik Twik Battalion shelled Malow Garrison on 11th February 1986. According to Radio SPLA correspondent in Rumbek, the shelling of Malow Garrison was in retaliation to repeated provocations of SPLA by Siwar al-Dhahab's army, who have been harassing innocent citizens as well as looting their property.

In another development, the government forces in Malow are facing starvation. They have not received their salaries since January this year and there is no way they can get their salaries, which have been awaited from Waw, because, according to our correspondent, all ways leading to Rumbek have permanently been blocked by SPLA forces of Twik Twik Battalion under the Command of Lieutenant-General Daniel Aweid Akuot. The correspondent said that Siwar al-Dhahab's forces in Malow are now in a dilemma. They do not know whether to defect to the SPLA or to face starvation and death.

SPLA forces of Timsah [crocodile] and Wolf Battalions under the command of Major Paul Dor Lampuol in the first week of February 1986 conducted three ambushes at Gargup, Aguala and Jal. According to Radio SPLA correspondent in the area, one APC number 2205 mounted with an antiaircraft gun was destroyed and 14 soldiers who were on board were all killed. Two G-3 rifles discarded were found in good working order with the following registration numbers: 36418 and 30322. In Aguala one Magirus truck [was destroyed] and 45 soldiers on board were killed and one Gronov gun that was on the truck was also destroyed, while in Gargup 15 government soldiers were killed and large amounts of G-3 ammunition and RPG shells were destroyed.

According to our correspondent, the convoy was taking food and reinforcements to Ler Garrison, which has been under siege and the government forces there reportedly facing starvation. The correspondent said the remaining government soldiers ran in disarray, some of whom were later reported to have been killed by the civilians as they ran without guns.

SPLA forces of Lion Battalion clashed with Siwar al-Dhahab's troops a short distance away from Poktab on the canal of 15th February 1986. The enemy force that had left its barracks at Poktab were engaged by units of Lion Battalion under the overall command of Captain Thuon Agot in a fierce battle that lasted 3 hours. The enemy was forced back to its trenches, leaving behind several dead soldiers and plenty of machine gun and G-3 rifle ammunition. A number of enemy soldiers were also wounded.

TUNISIA

Chadian Official Arrives With Message for Bourguiba

LD201831 Rabat MAP in English 1227 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Tunis, Feb 20. (MAP) — M. Korom Ahmed, Chadian secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation and President Hissein Habre's special envoy, arrived Wednesday in Tunis with a message from M. Habre to Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba.

In a statement he made upon arrival, M. Korom Ahmed said the message dealt with the latest developments on the situation in Chad, pointing out that "the situation on the front has become stable although the government's forces, which have so far succeeded in warding off all the attacks against their position, fear other offensives".

The Chadian envoy also affirmed that Ndjamena's airport, which was bombarded last Monday, "has been repaired and could from now on receive carriers, although the damage it suffered was serious".

Prime Minister Returns From 'Useful' Paris Summit

LD201126 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Mohamed Mzali, the prime minister and minister of interior, returned to Tunisia yesterday evening. He represented the head of state at the summit of the heads of states and governments of French-speaking countries which was held in Paris. The prime minister was received at Tunis Carthage international airport by a number of members of the government, the Political Bureau and top officials of the party and the government.

It should be mentioned that Mohamed Mzali made a speech at the final session of the summit in which he said in particular that this family meeting had reached conclusions in an atmosphere of general harmony. We must say that, contrary to the expectations of the professional skeptics, our gathering was useful and the first steps we have taken together were both strong and optimistic.

He added that this first summit has defined, first of all, a layout and the main characteristics of a style. On the basis of what is common between us — friendly relations and close cultural ties — and the sharing of one language, we have found out that there are before us greater possibilities of cooperation which can lead one day to the creation of a Francophone region for free exchange.

We have also discovered possibilities of cooperation in the field of scientific research and technical formation and the acquisition of developed technology, and also possibilities for the creation of what can be called a Francophone community of brains under the auspices of which we shall become parties and partners in the field of research and creation, not as producers and consumers.

Mohamed Mzali said finally that what we have lived through is a celebration of thinking and affection and a great hope unfolds in front of our community, and to be fair in this regard we should express our esteemed greeting to all those who have provided an opportunity for such a celebration. In this connection two African leaders deserve our admiration and gratitude and these are President Habib Bourguiba and President Leopold Sedar Senghor; and we address our deep gratitude to France where most of us have learnt the meaning of human rights, and to His Excellency President Francois Mitterrand who due to his wisdom, far-sightedness, generosity and hospitality guaranteed complete success for this summit. It certainly depends on us to keep the hope alive and for the seed not to die. Their living is a benefit for us all.

This meeting has resulted in a number of decisions and recommendations concerning especially the audio-visual, information, distribution of books, energy, teaching and formation sectors. The participants in the summit agreed on the creation of an international Francophone agency for televised pictures and international distribution, and also on extending the transmission network of French Television Channel V to cover the regions of America, the Middle East, and Africa.

The participants agreed on the creation of a network for the excahnge of information between data banks functioning with the method of video-text. A working group has been charged with studying the method of use of the video-disc to teach medicine in the Francophone countries. All the participants also agreed on an international Francophone baccalaureat.

Further Reportage on Visit of Algerian Delegation

Mzali Appeals for Maghreb Unity

PM171119 Tunis L'ACTION in French 9 Feb 86 p 4

[Unattributed report: "The 28th Anniversary of the Sakiet Sidi Youssef Events"]

[Excerpts] During a meeting held in Sakiet Sidi Youssef yesterday morning [8 February] to commemorate the events of 8 February 1958 [bombing of Tunisian-Algerian border village by French aircraft], [Tunisian Prime Minister] Mohamed Mzali delivered a speech in which, on behalf of the Supreme Combatant [President Bourguiba] and on his own behalf and on behalf of the government and the Destourian Socialist Party Politburo, he first welcomed the members of the Algerian delegation headed by Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, in his capacity as President Chadli Bendjedid's representative, as a militant, and as representative of a fraternal and friendly people.

The prime minister said that Tunisian-Algerian cooperation continues to develop and extend to new spheres and sectors and is being enriched in original ways. Thus each step taken in the implementation of cooperation projects opens up new horizons and brings new possibilities. In this connection Mr Mzali congratulated Presidents Habib Bourguiba and Chadli Bendjedid, and the two fraternal peoples for this serious, sound, and uninterrupted cooperation which has many objectives.

He pointed out that the success of this cooperation can be attributed to the confidence which characterizes relations between the two leaders and which dates from the first meeting between President Habib Bourguiba and President Chadli Bendjedid.

He pointed out that thanks to mutual confidence, frank relations, and combined efforts, all obstacles can be overcome and all problems smoothed out, stating that the solution to all the questions raised today lies mainly in confidence and ethics.

The Arab Maghreb, a Reality

Mohamed Mzali then said that the solution also lies in cooperation among the Maghreb states, aimed at building the Arab Maghreb and based on mutual respect and noninterference in other people's affairs. He explained that the Great Arab Maghreb is not a dream but a reality with a history and based on a common language, religion, and past. In addition this reality is imposed by political, economic, social, and military considerations. Indeed all facts make it possible to put our faith in the Maghreb into practice by sustained actions like the establishment of unity in educational methods, monetary unity, customs unity, and the implementation of various projects in an atmosphere of cordiality, confidence, and optimism.

He stated that Tunisia and Algeria, by their joint achievements, set an example for the building of an invulnerable Maghreb entity. Indeed in a very short space of time the two countries have implemented many projects which can serve of models of what can be done by two fraternal peoples united by interests and a common future — projects which were just dreams for decades.

Uniting and Consolidating Ranks

Mr Mzali added: "On this solemn day, a day of martyrs and loyalty, a day of resistance and solidarity, I make an appeal to all the region's leaders and to the Arab leaders in general, and I urge them in the name of the unifying elements which bring us together, in the name of religion, language, principles, and honor, to ensure that trust prevails among us, rid ourselves of the effects of colonialism and old-fashioned theories, and gather round the doyen of Arab leaders, Supreme Combatant President Habib

Bourguiba, so that he can give us his advice and the benefit of his experience to enable us to examine our affairs, devote ourselves to building our unity and our destiny,take up challenges, and overcome inherited conflicts so that no force of colonialism or Zionism will be able to attack us."

In this connection, the prime minister stressed that the most pressing duty now is to unite and consolidate Arab ranks and combine efforts to face the challenges, the hegemony, and the aggressions of which the Arab nation is the target, the theft of its wealth, and the exploitation of its resources. In this connection Mr Mzali stressed the need to overcome peripheral disagreements, machinations, and traps, and to work to achieve complementarity and to strengthen mutual confidence.

"We are very hopeful and optimistic about the future," Mr Mzali added, "because we belong to those militants who do not fear problems and whose determination cannot be undermined. Moreover, history shows us that some dreams and tasks can be fulfilled at the height of crises, and that determination, struggle, and attachment to what is essential ensure that solutions are found to crises." He stated that, just as the Maghreb peoples did not despair of freedom and independence during the liberation struggle, they do not now despair of building Great Arab Maghreb unity.

AL-BAYAN Interviews Prime Minister

GF142003 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 13 Feb 86 p 16

[Interview with Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali by unidentified *AL-BAYAN* correspondent — place and date not given]

[Excerpts]*AL-BAYAN*: How does Tunisia view its relations with the United States, which clearly works against Arab interests on all occasions?
Mohamed Mzali: Maybe you have in mind the U.S. veto against the UN resolution denouncing the Israeli piracy against the civilian Libyan plane. This stand did not come as a surprise to anybody. We must always realize that Israel is "America's spoiled child." Therefore, why do we become angry and emotional and cause a great deal of commotion? All that the United States did was to use the right of veto and support Israel. This is a fact, and the role that should be played through the Arab policy is that a strategic plan must be formulated in light of the existing conditions. If we Arabs unite instead of differing with and boycotting each other and we do not split the Palestinians into numerous organizations and fronts, will we not be stronger to confront the veto and the rest?

We fight and exercise aggression against each other. We buy oil from Italy and Spain to punish the Tunisian people and then shout about the U.S. veto against any resolution condemning Israel or when the United States boycotts some Arab countries economically or politically. We treat each other worse than the United States treats us. We must question ourselves first, unless we wish to keep our people in check with statements, abuse, and recriminations. Any wise person of this nation knows that our causes will not be settled with bickering, especially when we feel that the Zionist cancer is spreading and we are wilting. This is what has been happening for more than 30 years while we have been shouting and hurling recriminations at each other.

AL-BAYAN: It has been said that the Tunisian-Soviet relations are steadily inproving, especially following the visit by the Soviet deputy education minister to Tunisia and the probable visit by the foreign minister. Does this improvement contradict the previous pertinent Tunisian policy?
Mzali: No. All must know that Tunisia's relations with the Soviet Union are longstanding. For 15 years, at least, Soviet engineers have been participating in Tunisian projects. Tens of Soviet professors have been appointed in Tunisian institutes to teach engineering and technical sciences, including the school of engineering. Soviet-Tunisian cooperation has been established for more than 20 years. The Soviets have participated in building Tunisian dams by providing experience and finances, including the Sajnan, Sidi Salim, and Jamin dams.

Tunisian foreign policy has been based, for many years, on the principle of cooperation with all countries. Maybe cooperation with the United States has increased in recent years. Indeed, the United States supported us against French imperialism in Bizerte and against the French raids on (Saqiya) Sidi Youssef. It supported us when France cut off aid to us under the pretext that we supported the Algerian revolution. When President Habib Bourguiba nationalized all French assets in Tunisia and expelled thousands of French workers, the United States supported us.

We are politically independent and not allied to any side. We cooperate with the Soviet Union, the PRC, the SFRY, France, Kuwait, and the United States. We do not wish to oppose anyone. Often, I have been asked by Tunisian journalists: "What is our stand concerning our ally the United States?" I respond to them: The United States is not our ally. It is merely a friendly country just like the FRG, France, Sweden, and Italy. We deal with it according to our requirements and interests and the circumstances surrounding them. We are not answerable to any side. Tunisia is a nonaligned country and President Bourguiba is always intent on the freedom of decisionmaking. Our friends must realize that, because the issue does not require further clarification.

AL-BAYAN: Algerian-Tunisian relations have recently witnessed notable improvements, especially because of the 28th anniversary of the (Saqiya) Sid Youssef events. Are the relations with Algeria at their best now?
Mzali: Currently, Tunisian-Algerian relations are based on safe principles. Every year, the prime ministers of the two countries meet to discuss these relations and develop them. We also have a joint committee chaired by the foreign ministers of both countries to solve various problems in all fields. Every time we have carried out a joint plan we have foreseen other plans. In other words, cooperation between us is boundless.

AL-BAYAN: How can you respond to those who say that there are two axes in Arab Maghreb: the Tunisian-Algerian-Mauritanian axis and the Libyan-Moroccan axis?
Mzali: This is not true. What binds us and Algeria is the treaty of "harmony and fraternity" which Mauritania signed later. This treaty is open to other countries to sign if they wish. We have been eager to achieve this since the signing of the treaty.

AL-BAYAN: We hope that Libyan-Tunisian relations will improve, although they are less strained than they were until the end of last year. Are mediations effective and are there glimpses of improvement in the horizon?
Mzali: Many brothers intervened to repair the situation. Our stand is constant and unchanged. The Libyan Government must reimburse all Tunisian workers dismissed by it. It must compensate the Tunisian Government for its possessions in Libya according to its rights concerning commercial goods and deals. Libya must also stop interfering in our internal affairs. Other than that, we have no requests because we are brothers.

Education Minister on Future of Tunis University

LD210032 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] The minister of higher education and scientific research, Abdelaziz Ben Dhia, sponsored this evening at the Bourguiba Institute a dialogue on the present and future of the Tunisian University which was called for by the three party coordination committees in Tunis Province and in which all who are linked with academic life -- namely heads of higher institutes and university establishments -- professors and students took part.

The minister affirmed that from its recent measures the government seeks to deal with the situation in the university, bring the university back to its normal course, and permit it to be a place for study and science. He reaffirmed that the government, regardless of the difficulties and the skeptical attempts, will work toward the implementation of these measures which have been endorsed by the head of the state. He explained that the situation in the university cannot continue and that public force is required to protect the citizen whether in the university or in the street, and is called upon to impose respect for the law. He noted that this does not mean banning the students from having political thoughts and honest political dialogue -- which is remote from the practice of violence and domination and obstructing the freedom of study.

He announced, on the other hand, that with regard to the next academic year there will be no change in the method of orientation and the conditions for granting scholarships, explaining that what has been suggested in relation to these two questions are merely ideas which can only be decided upon after wide consultations.

SOMALIA

Opposition Reports 'Massive Arrests' in Hargeisa

EA202319 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Four years ago tonight, the people of Hargeisa rose up against the dictatorial and oppressive regime of General Muhammad Siad Barre. Reports from Hargeisa confirm that massive arrests of students, intellectuals, businessmen, and members of the general public have taken place this week in and around Hargeisa. The reports say that over 130 people have been detained so far in the regime's torture chambers in Hargeisa. Among those recently arrested by the oppressive Siad Barre regime was Said Adan Egeh, who worked for Radio Hargeisa.

Following the mass arrests, the students of Mahmud Ahmad Ali High School in Hargeisa confronted the repressive organs. They were involved in a stone-throwing confrontation with the police and army. The reports say several students, including head boy Farah Uthman, were arrested.

Unconfirmed reports circulating in Hargeisa say that several of those arrested have died as a result of the excessive beating they received in jail at the hands of the repressive organs.

SUDAN

SPLA Forces Ambush Government Soldier 17 Feb

EA202218 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpt] About nine government soldiers were killed and many of them were wounded in an ambush by [SPLA] Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces of Twik Twik Battalion between Rumbek town and Malow garrison on 17 February 1986. One Magirus truck was destroyed in the ambush. Two more government soldiers were killed in an abortive attempt to rescue the ambushed soldiers.

The SPLA forces stationed at Rumbek airstrip shelled the enemy garrison in Rumbek town and destroyed the market place and the police headquarters. According to our correspondent, the enemy suffered heavy casualties in men and material. In this regard, the commander of Twik Twik Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Aweid Akuot, has repeated his warning to the civilians in the town to leave immediately.

TANZANIA

Trade Facilities Remain Open for Landlocked Nations

EA21007 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 20 Feb

[Text] Dar es Salaam: Today President Ali Hassan Mwinyi assured landlocked countries in East and Central Africa that Tanzania would continue allowing them to use transit facilities for their goods passing through Tanzania. He said Tanzania would do so since it believed that the Indian Ocean is an asset for all countries in the region.

Ndugu Mwinyi made this pledge today during talks with the Rwandan minister for communications and transport, Mr Andre Ntagerura, at State House in Dar Es Salaam. He said Tanzania would continue to allow the port, the roads,and the railway to be used for the transportation of imports and exports for those landlocked nations.

President Mwinyi also reaffirmed Tanzania's stand on support for the liberation struggle until the entire continent is liberated.

Mr Ntagerura, who is currently visiting Tanzania, delivered a special message from President Juvenal Habyrimana of Rwanda. The minister also commended, Tanzania for supporting the liberation struggle in Africa and assisting the continents landlocked states.

CAMEROON

Chadian Minister Received by Biya, Talks to Press

AB201500 Yaounde Domestic Service in French
1200 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Chad expects from Cameroon — as from all the other peace-loving African countries — an aid to face the Libyan aggression. This was stated this morning in Yaounde by a special envoy of President Hissein Habre. The statement was made at the Palais de l'Unite following the audience granted him by President Paul Biya.

The envoy, Mr Moussa Seil Adoum [Chadian minister of economy and commerce], stressed that Cameroon has always supported the Chadian people. He also expressed satisfaction about the military support France is now giving the Ndjamena regime. The special envoy was interviewed by Michel Job Abaga.

[Begin Adoum recording] Chad has been a victim of armed aggression for the past few days. Everybody knows that the Libyan Army is occupying half of the Chadian territory. This army has just launched a military attack against the strip of land on the 16th parallel [words indistinct] as well as an air attack against Ndjamena International Airport. This is the purpose of my mission to the sister Republic of Cameroon.

[Abaga] Mr Minister, what does Chad expect from Cameroon in the face of this attack?

[Adoum] Chad expects from Cameroon — as from all the other peace-loving, brotherly, and friendly African countries — support and assistance in order to enable it to face this aggression because we believe that if the Chadian people are now engaged in an armed struggle, this aggression also concerns the whole of Africa, particularly all the subregion.

[Abaga] What sort of aid should this be, Mr Minister?

[Adoum] Listen, this aid can be in various forms; it may be political, diplomatic, or moral. The fact that one is not alone in the trial is very important. This is what we require from the sister Republic of Cameroon which, besides, has always been by our side — by the side of the Chadian people — during all their (?trials).

[Abaga] Faithful to its promise, France has returned to support President Hissein Habre's government. Mr Minister, how do you appreciate this new French presence? Do you think that this aid can help your government to face the present aggression?

[Adoum] The French aid came at the request of the Chadian Government. Some people have said that Libya bombed the Ndjamena International Airport because the French Air Force bombed the military — I repeat military — runway at Ouadi Doum built by Libya on Chadian territory. This is a contradiction because the Ouadi Doum runway built by Libya is on Chadian territory and the fact that Libya claimed that it resorted to a bombing raid which was carried out against our own territory — the Chadian territory — constitutes the most flagrant proof of Libya's (?designs). As for us, we appreciate the French aid granted at our request and we appeal to all the other peace-loving countries to help us to ensure Chad's territorial integrity. [end recording]

DPRK Delegation Arrives for Cooperation Talks

AB201750 Yaounde Domestic Service in French
1200 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] The cooperation between Cameroon and North Korea is progressing. A North Korean delegation led by Om Tok-hwan, vice minister of external economic affairs, has been visiting Cameroon since yesterday. This delegation, which has come after the first session of the Cameroon-DPRK Joint Commission held in Pyongyang from 28 May to 4 June 1985, will join some Cameroonian experts to concretize a certain number of decisions adopted during this first session of the joint commission. They will particularly examine development projects in the agricultural, sanitary, industrial, and mining fields. The commercial sector of the DPRK-Cameroonian cooperation will also be examined and, on this occasion, the Cameroonian side will present to the Korean side an up-to-date list of the products Cameroon intends to export to the DPRK.

As far as cultural affairs are concerned, they will probably examine the preparation of a program of sports meetings and of exchanges of artistic troupes. The DPRK delegation will go to the provinces in order to visit some of the socioeconomic and industrial achievements of Cameroon.

CHAD

Libyan-Built Airstrip Said Eliminated by French

AU201550 Paris AFP in English 1543 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Alain Boebion report]

[Text] Paris, Feb 20 (AFP0 — A key Libyan-built airstrip in the north of Chad was put completely out of action by last Sunday's French bombing raid, a top-ranking French general said today, releasing photographs of the bombs exploding on the runway.

General Bertrand Litre, deputy head of the French Air Force's General Staff, also said that a Soviet-built plane which carried out a retaliatory raid the following day on the airport of the Chadian capital Ndjamena had taken off from a base in southern Libya.

The 3,800-metre (11,000-foot) airstrip at Ouadi Doum, built by Libya in rebel-controlled northern Chad, was still unusable by warplanes today, four days after the French raid, Gen. Litre said. He said the Tupolev plane which carried out the attack on Ndjamena airport, "could only have come" from the Libyan desert base of Sebha, further north.

Gen. Litre refused to give details of the attack on Ouadi Doum, which was carried out using special parachute-born munitions designed to cause maximum damage to airstrips. Gen. Litre said the decision to bomb Ouadi Doum had been taken at "a very precise moment," when the forces of President Hissene Habre were gaining the upper hand on the ground. At that point — when French forces had not previously intervened in the fighting — "one could therefore anticipate a very violent Libyan reaction, using major air power," he added.

The decision to bomb Ouadi Doum, which has a "central position" and could have been used to attack French transport planes ferrying in equipment to Ndjamena, was taken to forestall any such possibility, the general said. Gen. Litre said that the airstrip had clearly not been built for purely peaceful purposes.

The aerial photos, taken by the French attacking force, showed two SAM-6 anti-aircraft missile batteries near the runway, as well as Soviet-built tanks, radar equipment and four propellor-driven Marchetti planes supplied to the Chadian rebels by Libya.

There was also a large helicopter. Gen. Litre said that one helicopter was hit at Ouadi Doum, but that "to our knowledge there were no casualties."

The French strike force, consisting of Jaguar fighter-bombers protected by Mirage F-1 fighters and backed up by a KC-135 in-flight refuelling aircraft, had attacked at low altitude with complete surprise, he added.

Gen. Litre was not prepared to say how long the airstrip might remain out of action.

The general also once again said that the Tupolev plane which bombed Ndjamena airport the following day had been flying at high altitude — 15,000 feet, or just under 5,000 metres — and had thus been out of range of anti-aircraft missiles based around the runway. The raid, which was apparently not detected until minutes before the plane dropped its bombs, has sparked controversy in Chad over efficiency of the Ndjamena government's French- supplied defences.

Some eyewitnesses and civilian air-controllers have on the contrary said that the plane attacked at a very low altitude of between 200 and 300 metres (600 and 900 feet).

This version was corroborated yesterday by Information Minister Mahamat Soumaila, who said the aircraft had even simulated a force landing in order to better aim at the runway. There has been speculation that the TU-22 aircraft might have flown in civilian air corridors and been mistaken for a civilian plane.

There have even been reliable reports that the take-off of the bomber, said to have been made from the Libyan airbase of Koufrah and not from Sebha, had been detected by U.S. observation facilities in the region.

Gen. Litre, while denying that the Chadian air defence forces had been taken by surprise by the attack, said it was "quite possible" that it had followed a civilian corridor.

Controversy After Bombing

AB201610 Paris AFP in French 1456 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Ndjamena, 20 Feb (AFP) — The bombing of the runway of Ndjamena airport on Monday by a Libyan airplane has raised a controversy over the identification and defense capacity of the airport, further heightened by the overflying of the Chadian capital on Wednesday by an unidentified aircraft, unimpeachable sources have announced. The latter aircraft flew over Ndjamena late Wednesday morning and was apparently not detected until the very last moment. Two "Mirages F1" then took off to identify the aircraft which, according to authorized sources, was a civilian airplane. It could have been a reconnaissance aircraft detailed to take photographs of the French military disposition in Ndjamena.

The controversy has also been fanned by the differences between the sources as regards the altitude at which the Libyan bomber had operated on Monday; this is estimated to be from 3,000 to 5,000 meters according to military sources, and 200 to 300 meters according to civilian sources. [passage indistinct] as well as the aircraft had not been hit during the counterattack of the anti-aircraft defense. On the other hand, civil aviation sources and eyewitnesses say the Tupolev made its attack from a very low altitude, between 300 and 500 meters.

Chadian Minister of Information Mahamat Soumaila stated yesterday that the aircraft had overflown the runway at altitude of 300 meters. He even specified that the pilot had undertook a fake emergency landing to simulate that his aircraft was in distress.

Observers see another problem: According to reliable sources, the U.S. reconnaissance services in the region had reportedly noted the taking-off of the Tupolev-22 aircraft from the Koufra base (southern Libya) and its departure toward Chad. But it is evident that the forces defending the airport were surprised by the attack.

(Authoritative military sources affirmed in Paris today that the Libyan bomber had taken off from the Sebha air base in Libya, specifying that the bombing had been effected from an altitude of "5,000 meters.")

These various facts lead to the question as to whether the degree of protection and detection of the defense system at Ndjamena airport 24 hours after the bombing by the French Air Force of the Ouadi Doum airport built by the Libyans in the north of Chad was sufficient.

According to military sources, the possibility of Libya's riposte, including a possible raid against the Ndjamena airport, had been taken into consideration when plans were being made for the Ouadi Doum attack.

Since the Libyan raid, the means of detection and the defense of the airport have been strengthened gradually as the "Operation Epervier" [Sparrow-Hawk] was being mounted, especially on Monday afternoon and Tuesday. The operation relies essentially on the Air Force, which enhances the protection of the base and of the Ndjamena airfield greatly.

Habre Government Thanks France for Aid

LD181437 Paris Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Chad warmly thanks France for its military assistance and swears to liberate the country from the yoke of occupation. In a communique issued after a meeting chaired by Hissein Habre, the government, the parliament and the Central Committee of [UNIR] National Union for Independence and Revolution, the single party in power, congratulate and express their gratitude to President Mitterrand, and to the French Government and people for having responded quickly to Chad's appeal. For Ndjamena the new outbreak of fighting reflects the annexationist aims of Libya against its southern neighbor.

For its part the Transitional Government of National Unity [GUNT] the armed opposition to President Hisseine Habre, says in a communique issued today in Paris that yesterday's bombing of Ndjamena airport was the work of a Chadian flight and also calls for mobilization for a final attack on Ndjamena.

GUNT Presidency Press Communique on French Policy

AB202027 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1920 GMT 20 Feb 86

["Press Communique" issued by the Presidency of the Transitional National Union Government, GUNT, on 18 February in Bardai]

[Text] The French imperialism, whose unavowed design is to partition, or even to erase Chad from the world map, drew up a fictitious line called the Red Line along the 16th parallel in 1984. The famous agreement signed on 16 September 1984 between France and Libya is in no way binding on the Chadian people.

The GUNT, which is the legal and legitimate emanation of the Chadian people, will leave no stone unturned in order to safeguard the unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Chad. The GUNT rejects any agreement signed on the back of Chadians. The GUNT issues a formal warning to French imperialism in regard to its gunboat diplomacy and its support for the Ndjamena rebel group. Only the French Government will be responsible for the consequences of that neocolonial policy.

Issued in Bardai on 18 February 1986

[Signed] [no name given] Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Revolution and president of the Transitional National Union Government

Foreign Minister 'Satisfied' With French Aid

AB191457 Paris AFP in French 1327 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Paris, 19 Feb (AFP) — Chadian Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou on Wednesday in Paris said that he was "satisfied" with the aid France has given Chad but hoped that Paris will help Ndjamena "to recover the whole of its territory."

"Chad must be completely liberated," he added during an interview he granted to AFP outside the French-speaking summit conference in which he is participating. "The situation would change should the United States help us militarily. In any case, we ask them to do more," added the minister. "Unfortunately, we can take only what our friends offer us," he said.

The U.S. State Department announced on Tuesday morning that the American Government had decided to speed up the delivery of military equipment to Chad and that it was examining the country's most urgent needs for an additional aid, it was recalled.

"Mr Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional National Union Government (GUNT, armed opposition to Ndjamena) no longer exists and is composed only of mercenaries in the pay of the Libyans," Mr Lassou again declared, adding that "one should expect anything from Al-Qadhdhafi."

According to the Chadian foreign minister, "if Algeria decides to play a role in the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict, we think that it could help to solve the problem of Chad." In fact, "Algeria is attached to the independence and territorial integrity of the African countries and in this sense it could play an important role," he added.

On the other hand, Mr Lassou is not very optimistic about the mission undertaken by Nigerian Foreign Minister Bolaji Akinyemi and remarked that he would be going "first of all to Tripoli and then to Paris where he will arrive on Friday but not to Ndjamena." He remarked that Nigeria is "a neighboring country and, therefore, it should help Chad which is being threatened."

As for the Organization of African Unity (presided over by Senegalese head of state Abdou Diouf who is also in Paris), "it has already demonstrated that it is incapable of settling the Chadian problem," said Mr Lassou.

On Wednsday morning, the Chadian foreign minister delivered a message from President Hissein Habre concerning the present situation in Chad to Togolese head of state Gnassingbe Eyadema who is also in Paris. Togo, said Mr Lassou, continues to [words indistinct] officials with the French authorities.

Bongo, Diouf To Talk to Al-Qadhdhafi Over Chad

AB191607 Dakar PANA in English 1559 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Paris, 19 Feb (PANA) — President Omar Bongo of Gabon disclosed in Paris today that he had held talks with current OAU chairman, President Abdou Diouf of Senegal, on bringing Goukouni Oueddei and Hissein Habre to the conference table.

The Gabonese president told French television that he and President Diouf had for this reason agreed to talk to Col. Al-Qadhdhafi, adding we are obliged to talk to him.

President Bongo, who has been attending since Monday in Paris the first summit of French-speaking countries, said he was not surprised by the resumption of hostilities in Chad. Ten days before, I was informed by President Habre that something was brewing in the north of Chad.

Asked in a live interview during the one o'clock news on French Television (TF1) about France's intervention in the war, President Bongo said that France has a stake in Chad, adding that she is applying a cooperation agreement she had signed with all independent former colonies.

In reply to a question on the prospects expressed recently that Gabon might grant asylum to deposed Haitian leader Jean-Claude Duvalier, President Bongo reaffirmed his strong disagreement, saying Gabon is not a garbage can for deposed dictators. He also stressed that the summit conference did not examine the Duvalier or Chadian problems although he had referred to them in private talks with President Mitterrand.

Gabon, it will be recalled, has for some time now been the venue of reconciliation talks between a number of factions to the Chadian conflict and the government of President Hissein Habre.

OAU Conference Requested To Examine Conflict

AB202044 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Within the framework of Chad's diplomatic moves, the government has officially requested that the conflict between Chad and Libya be put on the agenda of the upcoming OAU ministerial conference.

CONGO

Sassou-Nguesso Leaves for Burkina Faso

AB201221 Dakar PANA in French 1132 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Brazzaville, 20 Feb (ACI/PANA) — Congolese head of state Denis Sassou-Nguesso left Brazzaville Thursday for Burkina Faso, the first leg of a West African tour which will take him to Mali, Senegal, and Togo. The Congolese head of state will leave Burkina Faso on 22 February.

BURKINO FASO

Congolese President Sassou-Nguesso Arrives for Visit

AB201456 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1320 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Comrade President Denis Sassou-nguesso has just arrived. He was welcomed by his Burkinabe host, Captain Thomas Sankara.

GAMBIA

France Opens New French Language School

AB201858 Paris AFP in English 1645 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Banjul, Feb 20 (AFP) — France has opened a six-million-franc ($850,000) language teaching school in the tiny West African state of the Gambia, which is almost completely surrounded by French-speaking Senegal, it has been announced here.

The Gambia, a former British colony which consists of a narrow strip of land running along the river of the same name, has been linked to Senegal in a confederation since 1982. The new school, which will mainly teach French to Gambian government employees and traders, was opened yesterday by French Ambassador Claude Harel.

GHANA

PNDC Members Leave for CPSU Congress in Moscow

AB210750 Accra Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Two members of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], P.V. Obeng and Brigadier Mensah-Woode, have flown to Moscow to attend the 27th congress of the Soviet Communist Party which opens next Tuesday. The visit is at the invitation of both the Soviet government and the Communist Party.

Speaking to newsmen before their departure last night, Mr Obeng said the delegation will meet the Soviet deputy minister for talks on economic and trade as well as political ties between the Soviet Union and Ghana. [sentence as heard] They will also meet officials of the Council for Mutual Economic Cooperation and study its operations for their mutual benefit.

In the meantime, the chairman of the PNDC, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, has sent a message to the general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, Mikhail Gorbachev, on the Soviet proposals for the elimination of nuclear weapons by the end of the century. He described the proposal as an important initiative for peace to free mankind from self-destruction.

The delegation was seen off by another member of the PNDC, Captain Kodjo Tsikata, and the Soviet ambassador to Ghana, Mr Semenov.

Delegation Leaves for Havana Health Ministers' Meeting

AB210755 Accra Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Another 2-member government delegation led by the undersecretary for health, Dr Mary Grant, has also flown to Havana, Cuba, to attend the conference of nonaligned health ministers. The 4-day conference will discuss health problems of individual member nations. It will also find ways of adopting common strategies, especially among tropical and developing countries.

Dr Grant told newsmen that the conference will discuss traditional medecine and its related practices and how it can be integrated into the orthodox system.

The other member of the delegation is Dr Emmanuel Mensah, deputy director of medical services in charge of Brong Ahafo.

NIGERIA

No Plans To Renew Ties with Israel

AB201716 Paris AFP in English 1700 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Lagos, feb 20 (AFP) — A senior Nigerian Government official today categorically denied an unofficial Israeli report thatNigeria was preparing to renew diplomatic relations with Israel. "It's not true," he said. The report was carried today by Israeli radio, although the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem refused to either confirm or deny it.

He also denied a report from the same source that special Israeli envoy David Kimche had been in Lagos for talks with Nigerian officials. "He was not here," the official, who requested anonymity, said.

Nigeria, along with most other sub-Saharan African states, broke ties with Israel after the 1973 Arab-Israeli war. Nigeria, which has a large Muslim population, recently joined the Islamic Conference Organization.

Minister Concerned Over Work Stoppage at FRCN

AB202031 Kaduna Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] The minister of the new federal capital, Air Commodore Hamza Abdullahi, has expressed concern over the stoppage of work at the 35 million naira FRCN [Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria] headquarters in Abuja. He made this known today while receiving the zonal director of FRCN, Kaduna, Alhaji Mahamad Ibrahim, in his office. The minister, who described the FRCN headquarters as a striking edifice in the city, urged the zonal director to communicate the issue with the corporation's headquarters in Lagos to see to the quick completion of the project.

ANGOLA

Frontline States' Summit 'Postponed Indefinitely'

AB210946 Dakar PANA in English 0932 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Luanda, 21 Feb (ANGOP/PANA) — The summit of the six Frontline States (Angola, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Botswana), scheduled to take place in Luanda today has been postponed indefinitely, the Angolan Ministry of External Relations has said.

The postponement came in the light of the agenda of some leaders of the Frontline States. During the Luanda summit the six heads of state and government were expected to review the situation in southern Africa. However, the Angolan External Relations Ministry said that a date could be decided after the holding of the OAU ministerial meeting. That meeting will discuss issues pertaining to the organization's budget, the situation in southern Africa and [the] continent in general.

The last summit of the Frontline States took place in Maputo in September last year. High on the agenda of that meeting was the situation inside South Africa.

Paper Says 3 UNITA Rebels To Die for Treason

AB211515 Paris AFP in English 1444 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Luanda, Feb 21 (AFP) — Three guerrillas of the right-wing National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) have been condemned to death on treason charges by a court in the southwestern city of Lubango, the semi-official *JORNAL DE ANGOLA* newspaper said here today. The paper named the three as Domingos Miguel Tchiloya, 62, Ilario Kalembere, 43, and Alberto Kativo (age not given).

In earlier developments, a UNITA statement issued yesterday in Lisbon said the guerrillas had killed 64 government soldiers and three of the Cuban troops who are supporting them in operations between last Sunday and Tuesday in three provinces. The statement said the UNITA forces had suffered five dead, one missing and 17 wounded in the operations. The guerrillas captured seven government soldiers and shot down a Soviet-made MI-17 helicopter, flying in the eastern province of Mexico, during the operations, UNITA said.

Angolan radio, meanwhile, yesterday said the South African-backed guerrillas had killed five civilians last Saturday in a village in the central province of Bie. It said an army unit sent to the village, Chinguar, had killed six of the guerrillas and captured three.

Also on Thursday, Deputy Foreign Minister Venancio de Moura said that U.S. plans to give aid to UNITA constituted "gross interference" in Angola's internal affairs.

UNITA Says 86 Government Troops Killed During Week

HK200736 Hong Kong AFP in English 0203 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Lisbon, Feb 20 (AFP) — Angola's South African-backed UNITA anti-government rebels said here Wednesday they had killed 86 Angolan Government troops over the past week in fighting in four provinces.

A communique said the rebels had lost only nine dead in the clashes in Moxico, Kuanza Sul, Benguela and Kunda Kubango.

LESOTHO

Military Council Member Interviewed on Coup

MB201915 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] A member of the Military Council of Lesotho, His Excellency Colonel Thaabe Letsie, says that the military has to intervene in the affairs of Lesotho on 20 January because of the political quagmire in which the previous government had led the country and because of the political wrangling which led to the hatred and fighting among the Basotho nation.

Speaking in an interview with journalists from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting this afternoon, Col Letsie said that there were several groups in the country who were armed illegally because of political reasons and who were threatening and harassing the nation. He said there were divisions also in the army and police force because of political bias and that the national university of Lesotho had been turned into a political base to further party interests.

Col Letsie said that it was the intention of the Military Council to make itself known to the nation at the Moshoeshoe Day Celebrations on 12 March and in a series of pitsos [rallies] which will be held throughout the country so that the councillors should meet the whole nation.

Referring to the general amnesty which was recently declared by his majesty, Col Letsie said that the amnesty had been received with joy by the nation and especially by the persons affected, and also announced that a report has already been received that some political exiles, such as Messrs (Palatsi), (Masile), and (Makgage), have already returned to the country. Col Letsie gave the assurance that all political exiles returning to the country will be welcome as citizens of this country and must report their presence to their chiefs and abide by the laws of the country.

Col Letsie reiterated that all political activity in the country has been suspended and that people who have been removed from their professions and given political positions would revert to their original professions as there was no need for any political position.

Talking about his recent trip to six southern African countries to deliver a special message from his majesty the king and to explain Lesotho's new position, Col Letsie said that they were given a very warm reception in all the countries visited and that the leaders of those countries displayed great understanding on the new situation in Lesotho.

The countries he visited were Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Mozambique, and Swaziland, where the Queen Regent Ntombi even issued an invitation to his majesty the king to attend the coronation of her son, Prince Makhosetive, as king of Swaziland on 25 April this year.

NAMIBIA

South African Spy Network Uncovered in SWAPO

AB201932 Dakar PANA in English 1533 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Windhoek, 20 Feb (PANA) — A South African spy network, numbering at least 100 people, has been uncovered within the military and political ranks of SWAPO.

Speaking at a briefing in London last week, SWAPO's newly appointed foreign relations secretary, Theo-Ben Gurirab, said the agents had been uncovered whilst working within the movements ranks in Angola and in Zambia. He added that four had achieved membership to the organisation policy-making body, the Central Committee, and those accused were now being held in detention in Angola.

Mr Gurirab said SWAPO was revealing the information to counter rumours in right-wing circles in Europe and the USA that SWAPO was engaged in fascist activities against Namibian refugees. There is a well-calculated campaign organised by South Africa saying that SWAPO camps are concentration camps, said Mr Hidipo Hamutenya, SWAPO's secretary for information.

SWAPO manages refugee camps in Angola and in Zambia with an estimated population of 60,000 people. The SWAPO officials pointed to the presence of Swedish, Norwegian, and German teachers and nurses working with refugees and dismissed misguided concentration camp charges.

The spy network, which was first detected in December 1983, had penetrated both wings of the organisation and, according to Mr Gurirab, it had taken two years to investigate the cases. Every revolution has to go through this sorrow and these crises. These people are not our enemies; most of them have been misled and we will not victimise them, he added.

Gurirab pointed out that there were others who were real traitors and they could not be rehabilitated. SWAPO is not a charity organisation but is engaged in the liberation of our country. These men have provided information that was used for killing our people, he said.

The SWAPO officials showed videotapes of some of the purported spies in interviews, detailing their activities for the South Africans. They looked fit and did not appear to be coerced. Most of those identified as spies seem to have been forced into their work by threat or blackmail.

In one video confession a SWAPO member admitted to becoming an informant while being held in detention in Namibia. He told of threats to his family if he refused. Trained in detention, he was released and then re-detained to give him extra credibility. Then he left the country via a SWAPO escape route and joined SWAPO's military wing plan.

According to SWAPO sources the spy network was detected by tracing the origin of highly specialised SWAPO military maps discovered in South African Army offices in Namibia. A copy of the map found its way to SWAPO headquarters in Angola.

Suspected SWAPO staff were asked to draw a map to similar specifications and the result was an exact copy of the original. The map-maker was questioned and the trail led to his superior —one of the persons viewed on the videotape.

Another of the spies has been recruited while being head boy at a large school in Windhoek. He was trained in spy techniques at the Eros Army Base outside Windhoek, all the while being an active member of SWAPO. He left Namibia in 1979, studied in Prague, and on his return to Africa worked as a researcher in the office of SWAPO President Sam Nujoma. He claimed to have been given poison tablets to kill Mr Nujoma but did not do so because he feared detection. Until recently this interview had served as SWAPO representative to an international youth organisation receiving funds from a South African agent in Brussels.

The SWAPO officials at the London meeting acknowledged concerns about the detainees well-being. If we were irresponsible, if all that we cared for was to punish these people, this would not have been an issue, said Mr Gurirab. We are spending resources on these people to feed them, protect them, and to provide security for them.

SWAPO officials say they expect a concerted public relations and diplomatic offensive by the Reagan administration and the South African Government to be launched against them in the coming months. Certainly we know South Africa's friends are powerful. SWAPO continues [word indistinct] for an end to South African occupation of Namibia and free election to be held under UN auspices.

Implicated SWAPO Official Detained

MB211232 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1230 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Windhoek, Feb 21, SAPA — A SWAPO military commander is dead and at least one high-ranking SWAPO member is being detained following the uncovering of a spy network in the organisation, news reports said in Windhoek today.

The organisation's newly-appointed foreign relations secretary, Mr Theo-Ben Gurirab, said at a press briefing in London earlier this week that at least 100 people were being held in Angola and Zambia for spying on SWAPO for South Africa.

In a news report today, *THE NAMIBIAN* newspaper said Mr Tauno Hatuikulipi, who was second in command of SWAPO's PLAN (People's Liberation Army of Namibia), was believed to have committed suicide two years ago after he had confessed to passing information to the South African military authorities. It was his confession that led to a two-year investigation which brought to light South African informers inside SWAPO, authoritative sources said.

A news report in *DIE REPUBLIKEIN* newspaper said SWAPO's administrative secretary, Mr Moses Garoeb, was among those detained. Mr Garoeb reportedly wanted to initiate discussions with South Africa against the orders of SWAPO's leader, Mr Sam Nujoma.

In a statement published today, Mr Gurirab said the people being held for the alleged spying would not be brought to trial in the immediate future. SWAPO would look after them in determination camps, but the organisation was "in a war situation" and could not afford to open the organisation for scrutiny by outsiders, he added.

THE NAMIBIAN newspaper reported that many of those held had been recruited as South African agents while they had been in detention in SWA/Namibia and then trained for their missions.

16 SWAPO, 3 SWATF Members Killed in Skirmishes

MB201600 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1535 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Windhoek, Feb 20, SAPA — Security forces in northern SWA/Namibia have shot dead 16 SWAPO insurgents in skirmishes this week, and lost three men in action, the SWA Territory Force said in a statement in Windhoek today.

The dead SWATF members were RFN [Rifleman] Nandago Thomas, 25, RFN Robread Boas, 25, and RFN Albert Hapera, no age given.

The latest SWAPO fatalities bring to 101 the number of insurgents shot and killed to date this year.

SOUTH AFRICA

Police Raid Mrs Mandela's House in Soweto

MB211122 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1122 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Jophannesburg, Feb 21, SAPA — Police yesterday raided the Oralando West, Soweto home of Mrs Winnie Mandela, believing she was there illegally. They visited the home three times. In terms of Mrs Mandela's latest banning order she may not enter Soweto.

According to Miss Zinzi Mandela, her daughter, police arrived at their Soweto home at about 11am in three cars and a van. They returned at 1.30pm and at 4pm. Miss Mandela told the *STAR* "they were armed, arrogant and demanded to see my mother, saying they received information she was at home. They searched the house and could not find her. While they were still there I telephoned my mother.

"She demanded to speak to the officer in charge, but he refused to speak to her and said he was acting on instructions from above. They left after about an hour."

Miss Mandela said she was told the police returned "in a show of force" while she was out, and came again at 4pm and tried to force the main gate. They were unsuccessful and left after 15 minutes.

Police Public Relations Directorate in Pretoria "had no information about the raid."

Leutwiler Announces Debt Rescheduling Compromise

MB201748 Johannesburg Television Service in Afrikaans 1700 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] South Africa and its international creditors have reached a compromise. The mediator of South Africa's foreign debt, Dr Fritz Leutwiler, has presented a compromise proposal to the country's creditors which was greeted with consensus.

[Begin video][Correspondent Jerry Schuitema] South Africa has broken the deadlock. Agreement between South Africa and its creditor banks has been accomplished today in London by Dr Fritz Leutwiler who made the announcement a few minutes ago in the Savoy Hotel behind me.

[Leutwiler, in English] The standstill will come to an end on 31 March 1986. Banks and the arrangements they will make with individual debtors will maintain their exposure to South Africa at not less than 95 percent of the present level until the end of the interim period which will probably be 31 March 1987. I am going to explain this (?properly). Interest margins were in general higher than during the standstill period. There will be considerable flexibility in other respects and finally there should be a major review in February 1987 with a view to determining the best steps in the light of all relevant circumstances and developments in South Africa. [end video]

Stals Comments on Agreement

MB201849 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1848 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] London, Feb 20, SAPA — South Africa has reached a broad agreement with its main creditor banks on an interim plan to resolve the foreign debt crisis by re-scheduling repayments.

Mr Chris Stals, the director-general of finance who led the South African delegation at today's meeting with representatives of 30 international banks, said: "We have taken a major step towards normality today." He said the agreement, under which South Africa will repay five per cent of outstanding loans during the next 12 months with a review of the situation at the end of that period, would be used as a basis for the negotiation of fresh loans.

The debt invoved, on which repayments were frozen in September last year, is 14 billion dollars. The agreement reached today means South Africa will repay about half a billion dollars by March next year. Interest rates will be one per cent higher than when the freeze was imposed.

Dr Stals said that with a forecast current account surplus of 2.3 billion dollars during 1986, and taking into account debt that was outside the bank loans, South Africa would pay out about two billion.

He told a news conference at the South African Embassy that the five per cent repayment would place an additional burden on the balance of payments.

"But it was important for us to look at the proposals in their entirety. We expressed concern at some of the elements, but as a whole it was acceptable to us," he said.

When repayments were frozen last year, South Africa proposed a four-year standstill on repayments. Dr Stals said his delegation accepted the plan today "not without reassurances that there is a lot of understanding and goodwill from the banks — obviously it has a different approach. We proposed four years, this is on a year-to-year basis."

South Africa imposed the freeze after American banks, concerned about anti-apartheid pressure at home and unrest in the country, refused to roll over their loans.

Dr Stals said that at today's meeting no political demands had been made. "The emotion involved initially in the debt problem is now out of it. The banks accept that it is a technical problem," he told the news conference.

The proposals accepted by both sides were worked out by the independent Swiss mediator, Dr Fritz Leutwiler, who was chairman at today's meeting. At a separate news conference, he emphasised that there would be a review of the situation in February next year, and there would be discussions in about six months on South Africa's balance of payments situation.

"The consensus reached is of a short-term nature — a step towards normality in South Africa's international financial relationship," he said. Dr Leutwiler said there had been no political discussion at today's meeting, but he accepted that there was a political background to the situation.

"It is clear to everyone that social stability is part of creditworthiness," he said, and after his recent visit to South Africa he had been convinced that "positive signals" would be given.

Referring to State President Botha's speech at the opening of Parliament, he said it contained "clear and concrete undertakings to do away with apartheid."

Dr Leutwiler, who will continue as mediator between the two sides, said it seemed that the overwhelming opinion of the South African population was that the future lay in reform and not civil war. "Whoever is against apartheid and in favour of reform cannot agree with pulling the rug from under South Africa's feet," he said.

A technical committee will be established to give effect to the agreement, which is due to begin within the next few weeks. Dr Leutwiler said he would inform other smaller banks involved about the proposals, but he did not expect any opposition to them. He said it was possible that some banks would choose not to hold South Africa to a five percent repayment, and would instead do business as normal.

Tambo: Link Apartheid to Rescheduling

MB210827 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Leader of the African National Congress, Oliver Tambo, has appealed to the international banking community to demand the abolition of apartheid as a price for rescheduling South Africa's debt. He also told a news conference yesterday that the release of jailed black leader Nelson Mandela was a precondition for possible negotiations between ANC and the white-dominated government in Pretoria.

Mr Tambo said that if the representatives of 20 main creditor banks now meeting in London to discuss the scheme for ending South Africa's debt crisis linked their leverage, they could bring about major changes in the republic.

Commentary Praises Agreement

MB210603 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] A semblance of normality is at last returning to South Africa's financial dealings with the rest of the world. The agreement in principle with 30 major creditor banks means that, while the country is not out of the woods by any means, at least the path is now visible.

Although the chairman of the standstill committee, Dr Christ Stals, has stated that the authorities are not unhappy about the compromise reached after months of delecate negotiations, there are still problems ahead. The agreement is broadly based, and specific details of repayments have to be ironed out with the banks concerned. It could take months, and even years, of talks before real finality is reached.

Also, in terms of the compromise agreement, 5 percent of the total of nearly 30 billion rands — that is nearly 1.5 billion rands — has to be paid over the next year or so. While the surplus on the current account of the balance of payments this year is expected to reach 4 billion rands, the drain of currency will certainly be felt.

An additional factor is that an amount estimated to be as much as 10 billion rands falls outside the standstill net, and a proportion of this will also have to be paid during the next 12 months.

The net result of this is that interest rates will come under upward pressure because of the outflow of cash. The rand will possibly not climb much above 50 American cents, and the long awaited economic recovery will take longer to get under way as a proportion of the funds needed for stimulating the economy is syphoned off for debt repayments.

On the positive side, however, a rand at about its current level of around 50 cents will keep cash from exports flowing into the government's coffers, with the rand earnings of exporters being kept at reasonable levels. And this will help to restimulate the economy and put the country back on the road to positive growth.

Of significance was the absence of politics from the negotiations in London yesterday. Both Dr Stals and Dr Fritz Leutwiler pointed out that there had been no raising of political demands during the talks. While social stability is fundamental in the assessment of any investment risks, there is evidently a more sober perception in banking circles abroad of the political and economic realities of the South African situation.

Undoubtedly there are still troubled times ahead. But the breaking of the debt deadlock provides a negotiated basis for stable development.

Tutu Said To Reject Donation Unless ANC Supported

MB201834 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1827 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Bonn, Feb 20, SAPA — Bishop Desmond Tutu has rejected a Coca-Cola international offer of a R25 million trust fund for black education in South Africa unless, among other conditions, Coca-Cola publicly supports the ANC, threatens disinvestment and excludes Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's involvement. This was claimed in Bonn, West Germany, today by Chief Buthelezi in an address on the role of donor agencies in South Africa.

The KwaZulu chief minister and Inkatha president was illustrating the manner in which, he claimed, international donor agencies could, sometimes unwittingly, be manipulated for political ends. He produced a copy of a memorandum sent to senior Coca-Cola executive Mr David Schneider and signed jointly by Bishop Tutu, his SACC [South African Council of Churches] colleague, the Rev Allan Boesak, and by Prof Jakes Gerwel, rector-designate of the University of the Western Cape.

In it, the two clerics and the academic stipulate, in an indirect but obvious reference to Chief Buthelezi and his Inkatha movement, that "the involvement of any homelands functionaries or persons connected to organisations with official homelands links would preclude our participation." And they urge Coca-Cola to threaten to consider pulling out of South Africa unless the government takes significant steps towards change "within a prescribed time."

They stipulate that such steps must "at least" include the lifting of the state of emergency, the abolition of pass laws and influx control, the release of all political prisoners, the repeal of all discriminating legislation, the establishment of one single ministry for education, and the official end of the homeland policy.

Bishop Tutu, Dr Boesak and Mr Gerwel say in the memorandum to Mr Schneider, a legal executive of Coca-Cola from Atlanta, Georgia, that, while being "fully appreciative of the great benefits that could derive from your donation, we also accept that you will appreciate the larger political context within which our participation is (sic) such a scheme occurs."

They concede that Coca-Cola's donation is intended as support for progressive initiatives seeking non-violent change in South Africa. But they stipulate that such support needs to address also the "political environment" of their efforts to effect non-violent change, Chief Buthelezi, quoting the letter, said.

They also said "a crucial element in that environment is the recognition of the African National Congress as an important participant in the political process."

"Our decision to participate in the proposed trust would therefore be greatly facilitated by Coca-Cola adding its voice to the growing public call for the SA Government to start talking to the ANC.

"The establishment of the proposed trust cannot be divorced from the divestment debate and we would desire that it be abundantly clear that we are not lending support to any effort aimed at relieving pressure for change on the South African Government," the letter produced by the chief said.

Vlok Issues Statement on Meeting With SACC Group

MB201832 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1831 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Cape Town, Feb 20, SAPA — Details of the Alexandra Township problems which a South African Council of Churches [SACC] delegation discussed in Cape Town today with the deputy minister of law and order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, are to be forwarded to the state president, Mr P.W. Botha.

In a statement in Cape Town this evening, the deputy minister said Mr Botha had been unable to meet the delegation on such short notice, but that he had undertaken to forward details of the two-hour discussion he had had with them to the state president.

The SACC delegation was led by the organisation's president, Dr Manas Buthelezi, and included the vice-president, Dr Alan Boesak, the general secretary, Dr Beyers Naude, and Bishop Desmond Tutu, Anglican bishop of Johannesburg.

"Due to urgent and other commitments which had been arranged in advance, the state president was unable to meet with (the delegation) on such short notice," Mr Vlok said.

"I suggested that they would be most welcome to follow the normal channels in requesting interviews with the state president in the future.

"The state president's views on dialogue with anyone committed to peaceful solutions are known publicly and he would definitely consider such requests."

Mr Vlok added that the two-hour discussions with the delegation "took place in a good spirit."

The SACC delegation arrived in Cape Town this morning from Johannesburg on the understanding they would be seeing the state president but it later emerged Mr P.W. Botha had instructed Mr Vlok to meet them. After their meeting the delegation said they had been "disappointed" at not seeing the state president, but that their discussion with the deputy minister had been "fruitful".

At D.F. Malan Airport in Cape Town, the clergymen cancelled a promised press conference, saying they first wanted to report back to the people of Alexandra tomorrow afternoon.

The black township falls under the state of emergency regulations, with restrictions on the media, so a press conference would be held later tomorrow afternoon at the SACC's Johannesburg headquarters, Khotso House, they said.

Malan Says All Must Participate in Defense

MB201206 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1156 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Riversdale, South-Western Cape, Feb 20, SAPA — The defence of South Africa was indivisible and was the responsibility "of all of our people," the minister of defence, General Magnus Malan, said in Riversdale today. Gen Malan, who was officially opening an agricultural show, said the defence of a country such as South Africa was not the limited responsibility of any particular group.

"Defence cuts across lines which divide people in other spheres of life. The enemies of our stability and security do not single out certain groups," he said. "All South Africans, irrespective of colour, population groups and standard of living are targets and are threatened by those who wish us no good.

"The ANC, that puppet of Moscow, is on record for saying it will not single out any particular group. In fact, all South Africans, including civilians, are potential victims of their violence and murder campaigns."

Gen Malan said the essence of their threat against South Africa was directed at the country's security.

"This is understandable because security is one of the pillars of a stable society.

"Those who are out to destroy our society with the aim of replacing existing structure with a Marxist one-party structure go full out for our security. In this respect the forces who have the task of maintaining security and order are prime targets," Gen Malan said. Every possible effort was therefore made to discredit and undermine South Africa's security forces, and suspicion was cast on their role and ability, he said.

"It has become fashionable to accuse the Defence Force of so-called destabilising activities in neighbouring states. This accusation is unfounded. One should only take note of the state president's January 31 invitation to our neighbours to create a joint mechanism in order to deal with, inter alia, security matters."

Gen Malan said such an invitation would obviously not come from one on the war path, but from one who sought peace and stability. The Defence Force always acted as part of the greater state machine and its actions were not isolated, he said.

Because South Africa willingly wanted to "walk the path of peace and good neighbourliness" with its neighbours, it was also the Defence Force's endeavours to seek peace above all else. This always dealt with the security of South Africa and her peoples.

Gen Malan said the state had entrusted the Defence Force to implement this security. "That is why we oppose the ANC so strongly," he said. The ANC was in essence an organisation of violence and terror.

The "garment of piety" with which some — also in South Africa — dressed the ANC suited that organisation very well, Gen Malan said. Those who pictured the ANC as an "apostle of peace" should reflect on the confusion they were causing among the people of the country, and were playing right into the hands of Moscow.

Says Botswana's Fear Unfounded

MB201340 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1339 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Riversdale, South-Western Cape, Feb 20, SAPA — The minister of defence, Gen Magnus Malan, reiterated today that South Africa had no axe to grind with her neighbours. "We seek good neighbourliness," he said. Gen Malan said those with whom South Africa "ruthlessly had an axe to grind" were terrorists who abused the territory of South Africa's neighbours. Naturally, South Africa appreciated actions taken by her neighbours against terrorists.

Gen Malan referred to a press report at the weekend which stated that Britain would send about 90 members of her SAS [Special Air Services] to Botswana. These men, it was alleged, were to train and assist Botswana's Defence Force against possible aggression from South Africa. Secondly, Gen Malan said, the SAS were to help Botswana pursue terrorists.

Regarding the second point, Gen Malan said he appreciated Botswana's attitude towards terrorists.

"As for the first point, I want to say to Botswana: Let us be realistic." Botswana did not need to fear any aggression from the SA Defence Force and did not need to prepare herself for such an eventuality.

"Our action is against terrorists; it is not against Botswana or any other neighbouring country. I want to go further. In the spirit of the state president's invitation to neighbouring countries to implement a joint security mechanism, we are prepared to help Botswana," Gen Malan said. "We are prepared to train her troops to combat terrorists."

Gen Malan said if Botswana were serious, she could easily react positively to the state president's invitation. Botswana did not have to turn to Britain.

Botswana could turn to South Africa so that both countries could build on mutual interests in this part of the world.

Ray Swart Named Leader of PFP Parliamentary Caucus

MB201647 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] It is reported from Cape Town that the Progressive Federal Party [PFP] member of Parliament for Berea, Mr Ray Swart, has been elected chairman of the party's parliamentary caucus in place of Mr Colin Eglin who was elected acting leader of the PFP. This was announced by the PFP's chief whip, Mr Brian Bamford. The member of Parliament for Constantia, Mr Roger Hulley, was elected vice chairman of the caucus in Mr Swart's place.

New Transkei President Ndamase Sworn In

MB201258 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] The third president of Transkei, Paramount Chief Tutor Ndamase, was sworn into office during a ceremony in the Anglican cathedral in Umtata this morning. South Africa was represented at the swearing-in by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, and his deputy, Mr Ron Miller. The event was also attended by President Lucas Mangope of Bophuthatswana and President Patrick Mphephu of Venda. The inauguration service was conducted by the bishop of St John's, The Most Reverend (B. Dlamini). President Ndamase took the oath of office before the Transkeian chief justice, Mr Justice Tobias van Reenen.

Later President Ndamase addressed the Transkeian nation at Independence Stadium, where he said that Transkei was a Third World African country, but, he said, events in Transkei were not typical of an African state, where presidents and rulers were either assassinated or removed from presidencies by military coups. President Ndamase said that Transkei would cling to its traditional principles. He said that the president was a symbol of the unity of the entire nation.

Delivers First Address

MB201349 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1342 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Umtata, Feb 20, SAPA — The new state president of Transkei, Paramount Chief Tutor Ndamase, today said Transkei was looking with admiration at the constitutional evolution that was taking place in South Africa, which was a bastion of Western civilisation on the African Continent.

Chief Ndamase was delivering his first address to the Transkei nation shortly after he had been sworn in as the third state president of Transkei since 1976.

"I want to assure you ladies and gentlemen, that is through these difficult and turbulent times we can develop a new and greater concern and care for one another, we can create a kind of society that will be unique and be a beacon of light for the world to see.

"In Transkei we are a fully-fledged independent nation, a community of people associated with a particular territory and therefore complying in all respects with the requisites for full statehood.

"Transkei's activity encompassed a very wide scope in both bi-lateral and multi-lateral relations and has evolved under the very complex and generally difficult conditions of a country whose very essence places her always in the front lines of the struggle for peace, progress and democratisation of international relations.

"I sincerely appeal to you as Transkeians and parents of our children to inculcate the correct moral values in our children, because Transkei faces the challenges and opportunities not only of her own changed statutes but also of the last quarter of the 20th century.

"What will be needed most of all, perhaps, will be flexible and imaginative approaches to education, readiness for change and a willingness to jettison conventional attitudes," he said. The new president urged Transkeians in all walks of life to work hard in the capacities in which they served their country, as only hard work would build a nation.

Bill Gives President Power To Remove Restrictions

MB201646 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1600 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] A new bill has been published in Cape Town which gives the state president wide-ranging powers to suspend laws which curtail economic progress. Patrick Cull is in Parliament.

[Cull] The temporary removal of restrictions of economic activities bill is aimed at cutting through the red tape that prevents the development of the informal business sector. The memorandum attached to the bill points out that people in the informal sector are often unable to meet the strict legal requirements for the carrying on of trade. This act will allow the state president to remove these restrictions after consultations with the cabinet and so encourage economic development and provide employment.

Free Trade Areas Opening in Johannesburg, Durban

MB201529 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Free trade areas are to be opened in the central business districts [CBD's] of Johannesburg and Durban tomorrow. At the same time, a proclamation takes effect in terms of which the owners of certain businesses in free trade areas will be able to decide for themselves whom they are prepared to receive on their premises.

The minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Chris Heunis, says in a statement released in Cape Town that the proclamation of the free trade areas will appear in the *GOVERNMENT GAZETTE* tomorrow. Cape Town's free trade area will also be proclaimed soon and another 60 applications are being investigated. The proclamation means that members of all population groups will now be able to obtain occupation and ownership rights of premises in the proclaimed areas. This applies to trade, commercial, professional, or religious and educational undertakings as determined in existing twon planning schemes.

Mr Heunis also announced that the government had taken steps to clear up any possible uncertainty that might arise as to the occupation of restaurants, cinemas, and similar premises within free trade areas.

In terms of the proclamation which will appear in the *GOVERN MENT GAZETTE* tomorrow, the owners of such premises will be able to decide for themselves whom they are prepared to allow on their premises. Until now, occupation permits had been needed in such cases. Mr Heunis said this moved the onus from the government to the owner of the property concerning whom the owner on his premises. He said the step was a continuation of the government's program to eliminate discrimination and proof of the government's serious intention to give all population groups admission to the economic system.

In Johannesburg, the free trade area stretches from the station and the railway line north of the CBD to the M2 highway in the south and from End and Siemert Streets in the east to the M1 highway in the west. In Durban, the free trade area includes the CBD, the Point Road area and the Indian business district around Grey Street.

Johannesburg Hails Opening

MB201801 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1759 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Johannesburg, Feb 20, SAPA — The Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce today welcomed the proclamation opening the city's central business district [CBD] to trade by all race groups as a step of "considerable significance."

Mr Pat Corbin, president of the chamber, saw the move as another "practical action by the government in the total dismantling of apartheid." For the first time, he said, the prevalence of the Group Areas Act — one of the cornerstones of the "apartheid edifice" — would not longer apply albeit in a demarcated area and for a specific purpose. The concept could be extended, he said.

"What is good for the business community must ultimately be to the advantage of all," he said, adding that "until and unless all vestiges of apartheid are removed from the statute books this country will not be in a position to address the many vital problem areas.

"Let's get on with what we all know needs to be done. Time is not on our side," he said.

Opening of Durban Praised

MB201753 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1738 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Durban, Feb 20, SAPA — Mr John Pohl, deputy executive director of the Natal Chamber of Industries, said the move to open trading in Durban's CBD to all races would be very favourably received by South Africa's overseas trading partners.

"In the past we have been viewed as a country that talks about reform and tends to do very little. This is a profound and welcome move by the government and one which goes a long way towards the normalisation of relations in our country."

Mr Gordon Haygarth, Durban's town clerk, said he had supported the initiatives and had submitted applications to open the Durban's CBD some time ago. "We are very pleased to hear that our efforts have come to fruition. But we will continue to apply to have other areas of the city opened up to all-race trading purposes."

ASSOCOM Welcomes Free Trade Areas

MB201815 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1806 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 20, SAPA — ASSOCOM [Association of Chambers of Commerce] tonight welcomed the announcement concerning the establishment of free trading areas in Johannesburg and Durban saying it was an important step in the right direction." [quotation marks as received]

"It is gratifying to note that all race groups will now be able to enjoy rights of both ownership and occupation in these free trading areas. It is imperative that South Africa continues rapidly along the road of enlarging participation in the private enterprise system for all race groups.

ASSOCOM also endorsed the measures to be introduced to enable establishments such as restaurants and cinemas in free trading areas to exercise their right to admit persons of any class or race group to their premises, an ASSOCOM statement to SAPA said.

"In line with recommendations of the 1984 Strydom committee report into the Group Areas Act and related legislation, ASSOCOM hopes that the latest decision to allow places of public entertainment to be opened to all races in free trading areas will eventually be extended elesewhere."

Poll Shows Urban Whites Accepting Open Schools

MB200841 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0742 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 20, SAPA — Most urban white South Africans would either accept or welcome the opening of white schools to children of all races, according to a Gallup Poll conducted recently.

The poll, conducted by an independent research group among 1,000 whites in the urban areas, also revealed that 67 per cent of Afrikaans-speaking whites strongly opposed the idea, compared with 24 per cent English-speaking whites.

"Acknowledging that an urgent solution is needed to black dissatisfaction with the education their children receive and that the state has inadequate funds to provide equal facilities in the short term, 17 per cent of urban whites welcome the idea of integrated schools, and a further 38 per cent would accept the move," the Narkinor Research Group said.

The rest — 44 per cent — rejected the idea of white children being educated alongside blacks.

Seventy-five per cent of English speaking whites either welcomed or accept the idea, compared with 33 per cent of Afrikaans speaking whites.

Cape Town (68 per cent) and Durban (62 per cent) were the cities most willing to accept open schools, followed by 51 per cent in the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area, the research group found.

In other metropolitan areas, which the group did not mention, this viewpoint was in the minority with 47 per cent.

Higher income groups were more positive about open schools, with 64 per cent of households with an income exceeding R2000 a month willing to accept open schools. This compared with 50 per cent for those earning less than R2000.

The group found "surprisingly perhaps, the views of adults with and without children are not as markedly different as one might have expected. Fifty-two per cent of parents would welcome or accept mixed schools, compared with 58 per cent of those without children.

Police Pledge No Mass Raids in Alexandra

MB210600 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2239 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Johannesburg, Feb 20, SAPA — Senior police officers last night reassured leaders of Alexandra Civic Association (ACA) there would be no mass raids on residents in the township, according to Mr Dave Dalling, the PFP [Progressive Federal Party] member of Parliament for Sandton.

Mr Dalling was last night called to the township by members of the ACA who alleged that police were conducting house to house raids and arresting children. Mr Dalling tonight told SAPA he had met police officers in the township last night who assured him, in the presence of ACA leaders, that there would be no mass raiding in the township. He said he had not been able to establish whether the raids had actually taken place before his arrival. However, he noted that there have been a series of individual detentions in the township.

Mr Dalling said the assurance was in line with undertakings made by police in their talks with civic leaders and churchmen, including Bishop Desmond Tutu, on Tuesday.

Confirm Union Leader's Detention

MB210802 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0727 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 21, SAPA — Police today confirmed the detention of prominent trade unionist, Mr Moses Mayekiso, Transvaal Branch Secretary of the Metal and Allied Workers Union (MAWU). The union said last night Mr Mayekiso was arrested on Tuesday in Alexandra Township, just outside Sandton, and was being detained under the emergency regulations. This means he will be detained for at least 14 days.

Mr Mayekiso was due to leave for the United Kingdom on Tuesday to represent MAWU in important talks with British unions on a long and bitter South African workers' dispute with the British multinational BTR [expansion unknown] in Howick, Natal.

MAWU has appealed to local and overseas trade unions to put maximum pressure onthe South African Government to release Mr Mayekiso, a MAWU spokesman said. This is not the first time Mr Mayekiso has been held. He was one of the organisers of the stay-away in November 1984. Shortly after the stay-away, Mr Mayekiso was arrested. Charges of economic sabotage against him were withdrawn. He was arrested again with a number of other people during a May Day demonstration outside the Johannesburg city hall on May 1 last year. He was also one of the crowd of people who were rearrested when they staged a march following their bail application in the Johannesburg Magistrates Court.

Mr Mayekiso was also a member of the interim executive committee of the Transvaal region of the Congress of South African Trade Unions. "We are very concerned about his safety. All the COSATU locals are discussing his detention," the MAWU spokesman said.

Mob of 80 Goes on Rampage Outside Durban

MB210817 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0816 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Durban, Feb 21, SAPA — A mob of about 80 people went on the rampage yesterday at a shopping centre bordering KwaMashu, outside Durban, shattering display windows, looting a doctors surgery and stealing about R100. Police said the mob stoned two stores, then looted the surgery. When police arrived, the mob ran into nearby sugarcane fields.

The two shopowners were reluctant to speak about their ordeal yesterday, fearing that publicity of the incident would only encourage similar attacks. However, one person said that about 3.30pm the mob arrived from KwaMashu and began to stone the two shops.

"We managed to close our shop in time and get away. Luckily our premises are heavily burglar-guarded and they could not get inside. We are armed, but when there is such a big group we can't use our guns," he said.

The mob forced the driver of a heavy-duty truck to stop, pushed him out of the vehicle and then escaped into KwaMashu.

2 Large Arms Caches Found in Free State

MB211117 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] The police have just announced in Pretoria that two weapons caches containing a large quantity of Soviet origin were found near Ficksburg and Bloemfontein in the Orange Free State on Tuesday.

A police spokesman said in Pretoria that an investigation had brought to light that a group of suspected terrorists entered South Africa from Lesotho a while ago to establish the caches.

A large quantity of arms including AK-47 rifles, AKM rifles, hand grenades, and a large amount of ammunition was found. Two black men, who allegedly underwent training to handle the weapons in Lesotho, Angola, and the Soviet Union, were arrested by the police at Gumtree between Clocolan and Ficksburg. A third suspected terrorist managed to escape and is believed to be heading for Lesotho. The investigation is continuing.

Police Issue Latest Unrest Situation Reports

Late 20 Feb

MB201737 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1734 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 20, SAPA — Following is the SA police 7pm unrest situation report:

"Port Natal

"In Kwamashu, various incidents of stonethrowing at the police took place. One black male, 26 years; one black man under 18; one black female under 18 were wounded and arrested. Another black man was also arrested when stones were thrown at a police vehicle.

"In Umlazi, two black males under 18 were arrested after furniture had been set alight at a school.

"Soweto, Johannesburg

"A private vehicle was stoned and another private vehicle was petrol-bombed. A post office vehcle was set alight and a black male was also set alight by a mob of blacks. His condition is serious and is being treated in hospital.

"KwaNdebele

"Two black males above 18 were arrested for public violence after a stonethrowing incident.

"West Rand, Kagiso

"Two vehicles belonging to the development board were set alight by arsonists and a delivery vehicle was destroyed after it was set alight by arsonists. A black man was wounded and arrested in New Brighton near Steysburg and has died in hospital."

Ends report.

Early 21 Feb

MB210635 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0605 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 21, SAPA — Here is the police unrest report up to 8am issued by the SAP's Public Relations Division in Pretoria.

"At present 278 people are being held in terms of the emergency regulations.

"The following incidents of unrest were reported overnight:

"At Bridgeton coloured residential area near Oudtshoorn, blacks set light to a coloured male. He was badly burnt.

"In Soweto (Witwatersrand), a number of buses, private and delivery vehicles were stoned. The driver of one of the buses was slightly injured when struck by a stone. In the same area, a private vehicle was petrol-bombed and extensively damaged.

"In the black residential area near Machadodorp, in the eastern Transvaal, a private vehicle was extensively damaged by stonethrowers.

"At Zwide in the Eastern Province, police vehicles were stoned on a number of occasions and a shop was petrol-bombed. No serious damage was caused. Police arrested a man after one of the stonethrowing incidents.

"In Guguletu, buses, police and private vehicles were stoned. Damage was slight. Police arrested five youths.

"At Edenvale near Pietermaritzburg, a bus was stoned. A black man was injured by the mob.

"At Itembeni near Prieska a private vehicle was destroyed by arsonists.

"In Soshanguve, near Pretoria a private vehicle was extensively damaged when it was petrol-bombed."

Report ends.

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

[Editorial Report] **Youth Groups Appeal for End of 'Thuggery'** "Several Pretoria youth organisations yesterday appealed to Soweto residents to come together and stamp out thuggery in the area," says a report on page 4 of the Johannesburg *SOWETAN* in English on 20 February. A joint statement by the Mamelodi Youth Organization, Soshanguve Youth Organization, Atteridgeville-Saulsville Residents Organization and the Ekangala Youth Organization noted with concern escalating black-on-black violence in the area, and appealed to Soweto youth organizations "to educate the people and stop thugs from harassing innocent people."

SOWETAN Urges Low Police Profile

The editorial on page 6 asks why President Botha and the other cabinet members cannot take action to make the police and other forces in the townships "cool things." "It will not cost them much simply to have a low profile when things get out of hand." It also criticizes the "almost criminal damage that the state media are creating by misinforming the country about what is actually going on."

Railway Workers May Strike Over Wages

"Mainstream public servants, teachers and postal workers have been cautiously enthusiastic about the 10 percent salary increase they are to receive from April 1 — but angry railway workers are threatening strike action," Sue Leeman reports on page 1 of Johannesburg *THE STAR* in English on 20 February. A South African Transport Services staff spokesman "has warned the situation is 'explosive,' saying railway workers may lay down tools in protest if their demand for another 15 percent is not met." "Head of the white Public Servants Association, Dr Coling Cameron, said public servants were thankful for the increase but had hoped for 13 percent."

Company Supports Black Use of PE Beaches

A report on page 3 says that General Motors South Africa has said it would "give legal and financial support to any of its black employees who defied" the Port Elizabeth City Council and used city beaches. A council committee recently voted to prosecute blacks "'trespassing'" on white beaches. "General Motors is Port Elizabeth's biggest private employer with 3,500 workers, 60 percent of whom are blacks."

Police Presence at Meeting Protested

"More than 350 people stormed out of a People's Education Committee (PEC) meeting in Patidar Hall in Lenasia last night in protest against the police who were present in the hall with a video camera," *THE STAR* reports on page 5. "The crowd demonstrated, shouting: 'Out dogs, out,' amid foot stomping and loud clapping after riot police refused to leave the premises." Two previous PEC meetings were banned by police.

Inkatha, Afrikaans Youth Cooperating

The Inkatha Youth Brigade and the newly formed Afrikaans youth group "Jeugkrag" (Youth Power) have announced that they would deliver a joint memorandum to President Botha expressing their concern for the future of South Africa, *THE STAR* reports on page 17. The president of the Jeugkrag said it will be "'the first time that the Government will have the ideas of both the Afrikaner and black youth together.'" The two groups also plan to hold a joint political congress in May.

Agitators Blamed for Alexandra Unrest

Johannesburg *THE CITIZEN* in English on 20 February carries a report by Tony Stirling which says: "Police have evidence that agitators from outside Alexandra township have been stirring up unrest in the area." Residents who sought refuge at the Sandton police station this week said "agitators from Mamelodi — and possibly elsewhere — entered Alexandra before the start of the trouble at the weekend." "The allegations included reports of agitators entering homes in the township and forcing children out into the streets to join those erecting barricades."

Media Ban Criticized

Johannesburg *DIE VADERLAND* in Afrikaans on 19 February says in an editorial on page 10: "We understand that the unrest has created difficult circumstances for the police." Unfortunately, it seems as if the police do not always take note of the media's difficult position, and newsmen have been hindered in carrying out their reporting duties. "It is time to reconsider the restrictions on media presence in unrest situations and to discuss the matter."

SAP, Rail Police Merger Eyed

Johannesburg *BEELD* in Afrikaans on 20 February says in an article on page 12 that legislation to incorporate the South African Railways Police into the SAP is expected to be promulgated during the present session of Parliament. This announcement was made by Transport Minister Schoeman in Parliament Wednesday.

Warning to SWAPO

Windhoek *DIE REPUBLIKEIN* in Afrikaans on 18 February says in an article of page 3 that "Administrator General Louis Pienaar has warned SWAPO not to underestimate the will and determination of the parties who have decided on a path of negotiation instead of violence." He said SWAPO would be a poor substitute for a South African-appointed government for the territory.

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

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Iran-Iraq War

Regarding naval action, Iraqi statements and communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio claimed that the Iraqi Navy destroyed another Iranian supply ship 20 February, sunk an enemy "early warning" vessel 21 February, and destroyed two "very large maritime targets" near Khark Island 23 February. The communiques also mentioned Iraqi air attacks against the Ganaveh oil pipeline intersection 23 February and against Khark Island and a "maritime target" the previous day. In contrast, IRNA announced that Iranian troops "totally smashed" another Iraqi counterattack early 24 February and military communiques cited by the agency claimed that Iraq lost some 1,500 men killed or wounded in other unsuccessful attacks over the weekend.

In other developments, Iran warned in a statement broadcast by Tehran radio that it can and will repay the Baghdad regime for the latter's "black deed" in shooting down an Iranian passenger aircraft, stressing that "the continuation of these crimes will endanger air security throughout the world." On the chemical weapons issue, the Iranian prime minister denied Iraqi claims that Iran has used such weapons, asserting that Iran has not yet deployed chemical weapons though it is capable of doing so, according to IRNA. The agency also reported on the acting Iranian foreign minister's 22 February talks in Damascus with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, citing the latter's statement that Iran has no designs on Iraqi territory and that "the main problem" is Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, not the Iraqi nation and territory.

Lebanon-Israel

IDF forces ended their search in southern Lebanon for two kidnapped IDF soldiers and returned to the security strip 22 February, Jerusalem radio reported. The IDF force withdrew after Israel "exhausted all feasible possibilities" of locating the soldiers in the search area, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said in a subsequent interview with the radio. Rabin added that Israel will continue the search for the soldiers "through various groups." In related developments, the "Islamic Resistance Front" in Beirut announced that it had transferred the two kidnapped Israeli soldiers to "a secure place outside southern Lebanon," according to a Cairo radio report 21 February. AFP later reported that the newspaper of the pro-Iranian Hizballah Party published a photograph of the two captive Israelis in its 21 February edition with the caption: "The two Israeli prisoners before the execution of one of them."

In a later development, 5 people were killed and 12 injured when a bomb exploded in a car in Beirut 24 February, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Israel-PLO-Jordan

In further Israeli reaction to King Husayn's 19 February speech, at a cabinet meeting 23 February, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres noted that Israel is currently seeking "clarifications" from the United States concerning King Husayn's remarks, IDF radio reported, and he also denied that the United States has informed Israel of any change in the U.S. position toward the PLO.

Meanwhile, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat expressed "surprise" over Husayn's speech in a statement to London's *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*, but he added that he is ready to resume dialogue and that all possibilities are "wide open." PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir stated in a press interview cited by KUNA that 'Arafat will attend the forthcoming CPSU congress, though London's *AL-MAJALLAH* reported that the PLO delegation will be headed by Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO's Political Department.

OPEC Affairs

Iran announced its willingness to completely halt oil exports in order to "counteract the plot to reduce oil prices," Tehran radio reported, citing a statement by Iranian Foreign Ministry official Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam prior to his departure for Saudi Arabia. Sheykh ol-Eslam said he will represent Iran, Libya, and Algeria on his visit and present to the Kingdom their joint stance on reducing oil production "to a point where the downward spiral of oil prices will be stemmed." He added that Iran will suggest at the next OPEC meeting that all OPEC members temporarily suspend their oil exports.

Libya-Chad

At a news conference in Ndjamena, Chadian officials presented two prisoners said to be Libyan soldiers captured in fighting at Oum Chalouba 14 February, AFP reported 21 February. The captured Libyans were "technical advisers" working with GUNT troops, the report added. Five other Libyans were killed in clashes in northern Chad 11-14 February, the Chadian information minister told AFP. According to a later AFP report, a Chadian envoy met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo to request additional Egyptian military support for the battle against rebels in northern Chad.

In an interview with the Greek paper *KIRIAKATIKI ELEVTHEROTIPIA*, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said that France had violated the 1984 Franco-Libyan agreement on Chad by bombing a "civilian airport" in northern Chad, but he added that "despite all this, we will not intervene." Col al-Qadhdhafi also accused the United States and France of working together to "take over" Chad and establish a U.S. base from which the United States could "control the whole African Continent." In a separate development, Tripoli radio announced that the Libyan General People's Congress will meet in Banghazi 25 February.

PDRY

Former leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad is not in the PDRY, Presidium Secretary 'Ali Ahmad al-Sallami told the UAE's *AL-KHALIJ*. *Al-Sallami's remark followed an 'Ali Nasir* Muhammad interview with Kuwait's *AL-SIYASAH* which the paper said was held at Muhammad's base 180 km from Aden in the PDRY.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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'Arafat To Attend, Address CPSU Congress

LD220946 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0905 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Feb (KUNA) — Deputy Commander in Chief of the Palestine Revolution Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad — disclosed in an interview published here today that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is due in Msocow within the next 24 hours to attend the CPSU Congress which opens there on Tuesday [25 Feb].

In his interview, published in the Abu Dhabi paper *AL-ITTIHAD*,Abu Jihad said that a high-ranking Palestinian delegation will accompany 'Arafat on his visit to Moscow to attend the 27th CPSU Congress. He said the visit is in response to an official invitation from the CPSU Central Committee.

The paper cites reports circulating in diplomatic circles in Moscow as saying that 'Arafat will address the congress to explain the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and the situation in the Palestine arena in addiiton to Syrian-Jordanian relations and the need for new efforts to restore the unity of the Palestine resistance detachments and to heal the rift within the PLO.

The paper said that the Fatah movement is holding contacts with various detachments of the Palestinian revolution including those belonging to the Palestine Salvation Front to discuss the possible summoning of an emergency meeting of the Palestine National Council [PNC] to discuss Palestinian unity and the new developments following Jordan's decision to stop coordination with the PLO.

Quoting what it describes as responsible Palestinian sources, the paper said that the PLO has asked the USSR and a number of Arab countries, including two Gulf countries, to exert efforts to pave the way for the holding of a PNC meeting to be devoted to the question of national unity. The sources said that the PLO is holding contacts with Algeria in connection with hosting the council.

USSR Reportedly Behind PLO's Hardline Stand

GF232022 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 22 Feb 86 p 23

[Text] *AL-QABAS* has learned from well-informed Arab sources that the USSR has played a secret and important role in encouraging the PLO leadership to adopt a hardline stand and reject the U.S. conditions to include the PLO in the peace negotiations. The sources said that the Palestinian leadership and Moscow have reached a kind of secret understanding on a number of matters concerning the peace process, the international conference, and the roles of the PLO and the USSR in this process.

The sources stated that the secret understanding came as a result of Soviet-Palestinian contacts at various levels. Some of these contacts were conducted by a number of Palestinian leaders in Moscow and some were made during consultations between Yasir 'Arafat and a number of USSR ambassadors and diplomats in Amman and other Arab capitals.

The sources disclosed to *AL-QABAS* that this secret understanding is not written but includes the following main points:

1. The Palestinian leadership undertakes to inform Soviet officials of every step or development concerning the Palestinian-Jordanian negotiations or direct and indirect Palestinian-U.S. contacts which aim to activate the peace process. This commitment is in response to a Soviet request as Moscow has shown resentment over Yasir 'Arafat because he did not inform Moscow of the actual content of the provisions of the Amman before signing it in February 1985. Rather, he sent to Moscow another text on which many amendments were made.

2. The PLO undertakes not to accept UN Resolutions 242 and 338 unless it obtains three main concessions, which are:

a. A formal, written, and open U.S. recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination that it will include this issue in negotiations.

b. The need for the PLO to participate in any peace negotiations as part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation so that the PLO will represent the Palestinian people.

c. The need for negotiations to be conducted within the framework of an intenrational conference which must have a real and actual role, not a mere ceremonial role as Washington and Tel Aviv want.

3. Based on this form, the PLO agrees for the first time that the proposed international conference should be held under U.S.-Soviet supervision, the two superpowers will have a fundamental role, and that the other three UN Security Council permanent member countries — France, Britain, and the PRC — participate in the conference as observers. This is the Soviet view regarding the convocation of the international conference. The Soviets do not want the five permanent member countries to share the same role. They want the main role to be played by the United States and the USSR and the other members to participate as observers.

The PLO accepted this Soviet view and pledged to hold to it through all stages of negotiations and contacts.

4. In return, the Soviet side undertakes to support the PLO in any peace negotiations and to seek the support of the concerned Arab and international parties for the PLO role and to include it in the peace conference.

5. The Soviets also undertake to exert all efforts to achieve reconciliation between Syria and the PLO leadership and to unite Palestinian factions and organizations. In this context, *AL-QABAS* has learned that the meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and Faruq Qaddumi, alias Aby al-Luft, head of the PLO Political Department, late last year — and which the Syrian president disclosed in his interview by the French paper *LIBERATION* — was in response to a Soviet request.

The informed Arab sources add that this Palestinian-Soviet understanding did not restrict the freedom of maneuverability of the PLO leadership, as this leadership continued its talks with

Egypt in order to reach an acceptable formula to help convene an international conference and to activate peace negotiations. These Palestinian moves are currently being conducted in the framework of consultations with Moscow and not in seclusion from them.

AL-QABAS has learned that Jordanian and U.S. officials believe that the Soviet pressure has played a fundamental role in hardening the Palestinian stand. But informed Palestinian sources told *AL-QABAS* that coordination with Moscow was not the main cause for the PLO's rejection of the U.S. conditions. The main cause for the PLO decision was because what the Reagan administration offered was not convincing or sufficient to make the PLO abandon the last political card in its hands — the recognition of Resolutions 242 and 338 and the recognition of the existence of Israel within secure borders.

An informed U.S. source affirmed to *AL-QABAS* that Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asian affairs, will not visit Jordan or the region until the reassessment of the situation by the U.S. Administration is complete. The source stated that the Reagan administration is currently holding contacts with the various concerned parties especially Egypt, Jordan, and Israel, to know their stands on King Husayn's decision to stop political coordination and joint action with the PLO leadership.

USSR Invites Palestinians To Discuss Unity

GF231311 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
23 Feb 86 p 3

[Text] Damascus — The Soviet Union has invited a number of Palestinians to visit Moscow in a move aimed at achieving Palestinian national unity.

These peoples include Faruq Qaddumi, director of the PLO Political Department; Yasir 'abd Rabbuh from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Abu 'ali Mustafa from the PFLP; and Khalid al-Fahum, former chairman of the PNC, as an independent representative who declined the invitation for health reasons. However, Moscow has requested a substitute for him, 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar; and it is not yet clear whether he will attend. These people are currently conducting consultations among the fronts they represent to discuss the possibilities of reconciliation.

'Arafat Castigated for Leadership 'Failure'

JN232150 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1530 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Palestine broadcast: From "On the Events" program]

[Text] Brothers on the road to revolution and liberation, the Popular War Liberation Vanguards-Al-Sa'iqah forces have issued a statement on the current state of affairs in the Palestinian arena. The statement says:

Wagering on U.S. solutions and Reagan's promises, the 'Arafatist command has turned its back on armed struggle; dispersed all the Palestinian revolution forces it could disperse; exposed the PLO, the Palestinian revolution, and the popular organizations to successive divisions and fragmentations; and done its best to demonstrate its skill in offering one concession after another to become a partner acceptable to the United States in a settlement which would take place on the basis of the Camp David accords and Reagan's plan. By this, the 'Arafatist command has exposed our Palestinian and Arab arenas to a series of differences and fragmentations we could have avoided had this command abided by the resolutions of the legitimate PNC sessions expressing Palestinian national consensus and by the Arab summit resolutions expressing pan-Arab consensus, and had it respected the principle of collective leadership and collective action as the basis for democratic relations in our Palestinian arena.

The successive concessions by the 'Arafatist command, beginning with the reliquishment of armed struggle and ending with its supplication to the U.S. Administration to allow it to sit at the same table, inevitably led to the deadend which this command reached when it found itself facing an explicit U.S. demand dictating the cancellation of the PLO role and the complete elimination of the recognition of our Palestinian people's right to repatriation and self-determination on their national soil.

The clear fact that has been established throughout all our national experience, and whose veracity has also been established through the failure of 'Arafat's capitulatory trend, is that the continuation and escalation of armed struggle are the only course that can achieve practical results in the confrontation of our enemy, whether on the political or military level. From this premise, our organization would like to reaffirm the following basic facts:

1. To hold the 'Arafatist command fully responsible for the fragmentation and setbacks that have befallen the PLO in the past stage; to call on this command to step down and give an opportunity to Palestinian national factions and figures to reestablish National Salvation [PNSF] program, which remains committed to the continuation of armed struggle and its escalation.

2. To urge all Palestinian revolution factions to escalate resistance in occupied Palestine and supply it with all the requisites securing its continuation and development to attain our basic objective of liberating the land and regaining rights.

3. To reject any attempt to find surrogate agent leaders to participate in the settlement on the basis of Resolution 242; to fiercely confront this attempt, from whatever source it may come.

4. To reaffirm the unity of militant Palestinian action and emphasize its complementarity in and outside the occupied territory; to condemn all attemtps to fragment the Palestinian people, break up their cause, and squander their legitimate rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of the independent state on Palestinian soils.

5. To invite all national and progressive forces in the Palestinian arena to rally round the national program of the PNSF for regaining PLO unity on the basis of abidance by its sound

national and militant course based on the Palestinian National Charter and hostility to Zionism, imperialism, and reactionaries.

Our organization will do its best to enhance these principles, confront the perils that engulf our national struggle, and foil the liquidatory U.S. schemes.

'Arafat Surprised by Husayn Announcement on PLO

LD231003 Kuwait KUNA in English 0807 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 23 (KUNA) — PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories support the PLO in its stance toward King Husayn's decision to halt political coordination with the PLO.

In an interview with daily *AL ANBA'*, published here Sunday [23 Feb], 'Arafat said King Husayn's address, which included his announcement of stopping coordination with the PLO concerning the Middle East settlement, was a surprise to him.

'Arafat who was interviewed in a [word indistinct] added that the main issue which he believes has a priority at the present time is the current escalation of the Iraq-Iran war, following the recent Iranian offensive on Iraq.

He said that he submitted three formulas to King Husayn of Jordan before his departure from Amman.

One of these formulas, 'Arafat added, was "the PLO's readiness to attend the international conference, whcih groups permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and the conflicting parties in the region to achieve a just, permanent and comprehensive solution to the Middle East and the Palestinian cause, based on achieving the national and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and on all U.N. resolutions concerning the Palestinian cause, including Resolution 242 and 338."

The PLO chairman elaborated that the U.S. insisted that the PLO recognize the 242 "without any ambiguity" and announce a halt of its military operations on the start of the international conference.

KUWAIT

Iraqi Oil Minister Conveys Message to Amir

LD221057 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] His highness the amir this morning received the oil minister of the fraternal Iraq who delivered a message to his highness from his brother the Iraqi president, Saddam Husayn.

The meeting was attended by the Kuwaiti minister of oil and industry, 'Ali Khalifa al-Athbi, and the Iraqi ambassador to Kuwait.

Departs Following Talks

LD221757 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1635 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Feb (KUNA) — Qasim Ahmad Taqi al-Uraybi, Iraqi minister of oil, left for home this evening at the end of his brief visit during which he handed the Amir of Kuwait a message from his brother the Iraqi president, Saddam Husayn. He was seen off by Al-Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-'Adhbi the minister of oil and industry.

The minister told KUNA here today that the message which he handed to the Amir of Kuwait dealt with the bilateral cooperation between the two fraternal countries, particularly in the field of oil industry. He also said that the message also contained congratulations from President Saddam to his highness on the 25th anniversary of Kuwait's independence.

Al-Uraybi said that he has conducted talks with al-Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah on the points of view and views about the position of the current oil world market and the steps which OPEC could adopt to protect the common interest of its 13 member states.

He declined to make any statements or explanations about the steps which must be taken by the organization under the present bad conditions in the world oil market which is witnessing an acute deterioration in oil prices.

The Iraqi minister pointed out that he has also conducted talks with the secretary general of OAPEC, Dr 'Ali Ahmad 'Atiqah connected with the bilateral cooperation between the organization and Iraq in its capacity as a member. Al-Uraybi arrived in Kuwait at 0930 hours this morning.

Algerian Foreign Minister Arrives For Visit

LD221641 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1601 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 22 Feb (KUNA) — Member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister of the Republic of Algeria, Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, arrived in Kuwait this evening on a visit lasting until Monday. He was met on arrival by the minister of state for cabinet affairs, Rashid al-Rashid, and by the acting foreign under secretary, Faysal al-Mutawwa'.

Conveys Message to Amir

LD231113 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] At 1100 today, his highness the amir received Dr Ahmed Talib Ibrahimi, member of the Politburo and minister for foreign affairs in the fraternal Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, who delivered a message from his brother President Chadli Bendjedid. The meeting was attended by Ambassador Faysal Salih al-Mutawwa', the acting Foreign Ministry under secretary, and by the Algerian ambassador to Kuwait.

Received by Foreign Minister

LD231445 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1354 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Feb (KUNA) — The official talks between Kuwait and Algeria were held at midday today at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the chairmanship of Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir and member of the Politburo and Foreign Minister of Algeria Ahmed Talib Ibrahimi who is visiting Kuwait at the official invitation of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

The talks were attended on the Kuwaiti side by acting Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Faysal al-Salih al-Mutawwa'; Director of the Foreign Minister's Office Abdallah Sa'ud al-'Abd al-Razzaq; and a number of senior officials at the ministry; and on the Algerian side by Al-Hasnaoui Khaldi, ambassador to Kuwait; and a number of the delegation members accompanying Mr Ibrahimi.

In a statement to KUNA and *AL-SIYASAH* following the talks, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said the talks dealt with bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries in addition to the emerging events in the region, the most important of which are the developments in the Iraq-Iran war. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad affirmed that Algeria "will continue its good efforts with a view to arriving at the best way to stop this destructive war and end the conflict between the two neighboring countries."

He expressed his hope that the Algerian efforts will achieve their objectives, and added that what Algeria is undertaking is not a mediation between Iraq and Iran... "but a continuation of the endeavors and efforts exerted by the fraternal country in the past to stop the war."

He said there are no new proposals in this regard. He expressed his hope that the recent developments will be "an incentive to create better circumstances to end the war." This afternoon, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad hosted a luncheon banquet in honor of Mr Ibrahimi and the accompanying delegation attended by the acting under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and senior officials, and the Algerian ambassador in Kuwait.

Departs for Bahrain

LD241010 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0836 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 24 Feb (KUNA) — Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and Algerian foreign minister, left the country at 1000 today for Bahrain after a visit which lasted 2 days.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti and Algerian news agencies on his departure, he expressed his pleasure at meeting the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, and said that he held discussions with the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, which focused on our Arab situation in the east and in the west. It also concentrated on the Iraq-Iran war and on the efforts to arrive at a peaceful solution to this war.

He added that attempts are being made to coordinate all efforts to arrive at the desired solution and to end the conflict between the two countries.

Regarding arrangements for a possible Islamic buffer force on the borders, [words indistinct] Mr Ibrahimi said that this topic was not discussed.

PDRY Official Denies 'Ali Nasir Near Aden

GF231321 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic
23 Feb 86 p 17

[Text] Kuwait — 'Ali Ahmad al-Sallami, secretary of the Presidium in the PDRY has denied that former Yemeni Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad is currently in the PDRY. Al-Sallami expressed wonder while answering a question by *AL-KHALIJ* on this matter circulated by Arab newspapers that the former chairman is currently 180 km from the capital, Aden. He said that this is not true and that his government is convinced he is outside Yemen.

While answering another question, Al-Sallami revealed that the new leadership of the ruling party in Aden intends to form legal committees to investigate the recent conspiracy in the PDRY in order to reveal the parties involved in it.

He also said that his government will reveal documents and evidence in the near future indicating the involvement of foreign parties in recent events in Aden. He did not elaborate.

Al-Sallami is currently visiting Kuwait as chairman of the Arab Parlimentary Union at the invitation by Ahmad al-Sa'dun, speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly.

PDRY

YSP Secretary Makes Statement, Departs for Moscow

GF211936 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, today left Aden for Moscow to join our party delegation led by Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, to attend the works of the 27th CPSU Congress. He was bade farewell at the airport by Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the YSP Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium; Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers; and a number of officials at the Political Bureau, the Central Committee, and the Council of Ministers.

In a statement to ANA, the brother assistant secretary general said: It is a great opportunity for our party delegation led by Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid to participate in this political spectacle of the Soviet Communists and the entire international communist movement. He pointed out that it is also an opportunity for our delegation to meet the Soviet leaders and those of the communist parties, the international labor movement, and Arab and international liberation movements, in order to consolidate relations between the YSP and the CPSU and other communist parties which will participate in the 27th CPSU Congress.

He said: Our party delegation will explain the dimensions of the abortive 13 January coupist conspiracy.

Brother Muhammad was accompanied by Brother Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, member of the YSP Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee; Sayf Sa'il Khalid, member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the party organization in Aden Governorate; and Colonel Haytham Qasim Tahir, member of the Central Committee, first deputy minister of defense, and chief of staff.

PFLP Political Bureau Official, Delegation Arrive

GF220620 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
0330 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] A PFLP delegation led by 'Abd al-Rahim Malluh, member of the PFLP Political Bureau, arrived in Aden last night on a visit to our country expected to last several days.

In a statement to ANA, Malluh said: This visit is an expression of solidarity with the YSP and PDRY people in the hard plight they faced. During my visit I will acquaint myself with the background and reasons which led to this situation. He said he will hold talks on issues of mutual interest to both the PFLP and YSP and on issues of joint struggle. He added: We are confident that the PDRY people, led by the YSP, will quickly overcome their plight and the circumstances which confronted them.

He was received at Aden international airport by 'Ali Isma'il, YSP Central Committee deputy secretary.

Received by Al-'Attas

GF232015 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Engineer Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the YSP Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, today received brother 'Abd al-Rahim Malluh, member of the PFLP Political Bureau.

During the meeting, Brother Al-'Attas briefed Brother 'Abd al-Rahim Malluh on the nature of the coupist conspiracy carried out by conspirator 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his adventurous clique and the dimensions of this conspiracy. They also reviewed the struggle relations between the YSP and the PFLP, the situation in the Arab and Palestinian arenas, the nature of the circumstances the Arab national liberation movement is passing through, and the importance of making efforts to bolster the movement's role so that it can confront the imperialist and Zionist challenges, which are designed mainly against the movement's bases and the progressive Arab regimes and forces.

Brother Al-'Attas reiterated our country's support for the struggle of the Arab Palestinian people and the unity of the Palestinian revolution ranks to confront the plots which are trying to harm their national unity and the legitimate rights of the Arab Palestinian people.

Brother Malluh affirmed the PFLP's stance next to the YSP so that it can overcome the effects of the conspiracy and can confront any conspiracy which is against the PDRY's policy and progress.

Received by Foreign Minister

GF231622 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs, received at his office at noon today a PFLP delegation led by brother 'Abd al-Rahim Malluh, member of the PFLP Political Bureau. He briefed the delegation on the nature of the 13 January bloody plot led by plotter 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his clique, which was designed to eliminate the YSP and the revolutionary experience in our country. Views were exchanged during this meeting on this plot and the effects resulting from it and the efforts aimed at liquidating its consequences and effects in the various fields.

The delegation reiterated the PFLP position in support of the YSP and the PDRY Government in their efforts to overcome the effects of this plot. Brother Malluh expressed admiration for the enthusiasm shown by the party members, workers, and masses of the people to reconstruct what has been destroyed by this plot in various fields.

Received by YSP Secretary

GF231734 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, member of the YSP Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, received at his office this morning the PFLP delegation led by Brother 'Abd al-Rahim Malluh, member of the PFLP Political Bureau. He briefed the delegation on the backgrounds of the abortive 13 January bloody plot led by plotter 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his clique, the damage resulting from it, and the efforts being exerted by our people and party to surmount this damage. Brother Fadl Muhsin lauded the struggle relations between the YSP and the PFLP and the struggle relationship linking the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions.

Brother Malluh conveyed the greetings of the PFLP leadership and bases to the YSP leadership and bases. He reiterated the PFLP position in support of our party and revolution in these difficult circumstances which resulted from the plot. The delegation expressed its confidence that the YSP is capable of surmounting this plot.

Foreign Minister Receives Lebanese Party Officials

GF240710 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
2030 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Political Bureau and foreign minister, has praised the solidarity position adopted by the Lebanese Communist Action Organization toward our revolution and party. He reiterated the YSP's keenness to reinforce and develop relations with the Lebanese Communist Action Organization.

This took place during his meeting today with Brothers Fawwaz Tarabulsi, the assistant secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Action Organization, and Nasir al-As'ad, member of the organization's Political Bureau.

They reviewed a number of issues pertaining to the events which the PDRY experienced as a result of the abortive coupist plot that was led by conspirator 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his adventurous clique.

They also discussed cooperation relations between the YSP and the Communist Action Organization in addition to the Arab situation in general and the Palestinian situation in particular

Delegation Departs

GF221419 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Action Organization, left Aden today following a visit to the PDRY which lasted for several days.

During the visit, he met with leading YSP officials and was informed of the ill-omened 13 January events.

In a statement to ANA, Comrade Muhsin Ibrahim expressed confidence in the ability of our party and its leadership to rise to the level of the challenges which confront the socialist experiment in the PDRY and to adopt further correct measures toward remedying the effects of the serious events, to uphold the banner of party legitimacy, to consolidate the party's role, and to enable all institutions to carry out their tasks to surmount the effects of the ordeal.

He reaffirmed the Lebanese Communist Action Organization's solidarity with the YSP. He urged Arab and international nationalist and progressive forces to demonstrate solidarity with our people to face the effects resulting from the abortive coupist plot.

He was seen off by Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP

Political Bureau and foreign minister.

AL-MUSTAQBAL Interviews Chairman al-‘Attas

JN231120 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 22 Feb 86 pp 24-25

[Interview with Engineer Haydar Abu Bakr al-‘Attas, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, in Aden by *AL-MUSTAQBAL* correspondent Sulayman Nimr — date not given]

[Excerpt] [Sulayman Nimr] Did former chairman ‘Ali Nasir Muhammad plan to implement the 13 January events because he felt that you as a collective leadership wanted to topple him from the party and state leadership?

[Haydar Abu Bakr al-‘Attas) ‘Ali Nasir Muhammad implemented his design because he felt that the party's pillars and leadership began to fully realize his unacceptable practices, whether on the party affairs level because of his nonadherence to the various party frameworks, institutions, and resolutions or on the level of his nonadherence to the party's democratic practices, as well as the party's opposition to his practices and policies as far as the party's internal and external policies are concerned. He also rumored that our call to rectify these practices through citicism and self-criticism within the party framework was aimed at removing him personally from authority. This is in spite of the fact that the YSP's Third General Congress decided to keep him in power and reelected him as the party's secretary general. However, he claimed that he personally was the target in order to attract sympathy. He also began to spread rumors that the conflict within the party was a tribal and sectarian one, which was completely untrue. During the Political Bureau's meeting in May 1985, he said that he felt that he personally was a target. However, we explained to him that he would remain the party's secretary general, provided he also remained faithful to the party's principles, policies, and programs.

[Nimr] But did you actually have any intention of removing him?

[Al-‘Attas] Our dispute with him was not aimed at toppling him. We did not have any such intention. Our aim was to rectify the revolution's course and adhere to the party's policy through self-criticism and by continuing to respect the party bodies and institutions in accordance with the party's internal system and programs.

[Nimr] The events of 13 January came as a bloody solution to differences of opinion within the party. In the Central Committee's statement and in your statements, you affirmed the continuation of the previous foreign policy. What was the point of dispute with ‘Ali Nasir Muhammad? Was it an ideological or organizational difference, or what?

[Al-‘Attas] The policy of the YSP will remain as it is because the party charted this policy and we believe in it. However, ‘Ali Nasir Muhammad's practices were moving away from the course of the party and the policies it endorsed. On the party level, ‘Ali Nasir Muhammad's practices were weakening the YSP's leading role in society. This was a major point of difference with him. He exercised obsolute individual authority and did not recognize the party leadership. This was the main difference which created various secondary differences.

The second difference revolved around his malpractices with regard to economic issues. The PDRY is a poor country and its resources are scarce. It is known that the main task presented to us by the party through the third development plan was to develop the economy of our country to become an economy of production instead of an economy of services. However, ‘Ali Nasir's economic malpractices deviated from the objectives of the party's economic policy. For example, he encouraged over-spending and the squandering of funds in a manner that affected our economic capabilities. He also corrupted party and state cadres by paying followers. He encouraged nonproductive projects in spite of the fact that the priority of our development plans is to pay for development and productive projects. For example, during the third general congress, he wanted to undertake expensive celebrations which would have adversely affected our economic projects. However, the Political Bureau stopped this to prevent our country's money from being wasted, especially since our people need this money.

As far as the party's foreign policy is concerned, it is known that the party laid down the bases and principles of our peaceful policy which is based on peaceful coexistance. However, ‘Ali Nasir Muhammad wanted to give the impression that this policy existed on an individual basis and not on the basis of relations wtih party and state. In this regard, he concentrated on the brothers and friends in countries with which we have good relations.

[Nimr] Does this mean that the dispute was not a power struggle?

[Al-‘Attas] Not at all. It was not a power struggle. We all participated in the party and state leadership. Comrade ‘Ali ‘Antar was vice president. However, we wanted everyone to work within the party's policy and course. The dispute was over a demand for making the collective leadership prevail and for everyone to abide by the collective opinion in running the affairs of the country.

[Nimr] How true are the reports of a reconciliation aimed at permitting the return of elements and groups belonging to ‘Ali Nasir who fled the country, especially those who did not participate in the planning and implementation of the 13 January events? Is it possible for those who took part in the events to return and be accorded a just trial?

[Al-‘Attas] There is no such thing that we term reconciliation. The party's Political Bureau and Central Committee now judge ‘Ali Nasir Muhammad's elements by the extent of their participation in the bloody events. Those who planned and implemented should not be put into the class with those who were misled into taking part or those who only supported his opinion. During the dispute which ‘Ali Nasir tried to explode in May 1985, the Political Bureau and Central Committee endorsed the principles of not resorting to arms to settle the dispute and not accusing anyone who takes up arms of national treason. This is because we believed that differences within the party should be resolved within the party frameworks and institutions. Therefore, anyone who did not take part in the events will be regarded as someone who was misled; and it is possible that such elements will be reevaluated and given party indoctrination. The elements which took part in the events were also misled. They will not be regarded as as bad as those who planned and led the conspiracy.

[Nimr] Do you expect the return of some of the groups which fled the country, especially the leaders who did not take part in the events?

[Al-'Attas] We welcome their return. This is their country. They must return and they will be judged only by the mistakes they commit. We will not prosecute anyone who was misled. However, as far as the others are concerned, we will guarantee them a just, humane, and national trial.

[Nimr] Is a general amnesty to be expected?

[Al-'Attas] We adopted numerous steps and decisions following our party's triumph over the conspiracy in order to reinforce the unity of our party and country. The Political Bureau and party leadership will adopt all the measures to achieve this end, including the possibility of releasing many detainees who did not play a major role in the conspiracy.

[Nimr] You released 10,000 detainees. However, we have heard that there are 500 people still detained.

[Al-'Attas] Yes, we have released a number of detainees and we are still detaining others.

[Nimr] It was noticed that PLO representative 'Abbas Zaki did not take part in the funeral of 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il and his comrades on Tuesday afternoon. We asked 'Abbas Zaki about this and he said that he was not invited to attend. We also noticed that representatives from the other Palestinian factions such as the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the PFLP, and AL-SA'IQAH, attended. Does that mean anything?

[Al-'Attas] As far as what has been said about not inviting 'Abbas Zaki, I believe that there was some kind of misunderstanding. This is my initial assessment of the situation. However, I can affirm that our relations with the organization [the PLO] are good and 'Abbas Zaki represents the PLO in our country. There may have been certain concomitants during the events but we did not pay much attention to that. This is because we are eager to preserve our relations with the PLO just as we are eager to preserve the unity of the Palestinian people. There may have been some procedural mistakes as to why 'Abbas Zaki did not attend the funeral. However, I affirm that we invited all the representatives of the liberation movements.

[Nimr] What are these concomitants which you said took place during the bloody events? Was it the PLO's attempt at reconciliation? Or was it some rumors that spoke of the participation of some Palestinians in the events?

[Al-'Attas] We declared our stand on Yasir 'Arafat's attempt at mediation because we did not want to involve the PLO in this affair. We explained to the PLO leadership that what was taking place was an internal affair. The comrades who were here explained this. I explained it also when I was abroad through cables with Yasir 'Arafat.

[Nimr] What was Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat's] reply?

[Al-'Attas] His reply was positive. He told us that he would not send any forces to the PDRY unless the comrades in the country ask for them. As far as the concomitants are concerned, these emerged through the presence of a number of Palestinians here who had personal relations with a number of elements who were involved in the conspiracy such as Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad. We did not adopt a stand until we could accurately confirm such participation. However, this does not mean that the PLO or Fatah were involved. No. However, the personal relations between some Palestinian elements and Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad may have been exploited to extend personal efforts and contribution to the conspiracy elements.

[Nimr] Do you have any intention of embarking on an Arab tour soon?

[Al-'Attas] We are conducting contacts with all the Arab countries regarding such visits in order to explain the recent events in our country and affirm our good intentions toward developing and improving our relations with all the Arab brothers, especially the brothers in the GCC. We have received a number of positive replies and are awaiting the replies of others.

Kuwaiti Paper Interviews 'Ali Nasir Muhammad

GF221544 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 21 Feb 86 pp 1, 21

[Interview with 'Ali Nasir Muhammad by *AL-SIYASAH* correspondent Mursi al-Nuwayshi at Muhammad's base, 180 km from Aden in the PDRY — date not given]

[Text][Mursi al-Nuwayshi] Although you are currently excluded from authority, you still enter the country. Don't you fear for your life?

['Ali Nasir Muhammad] A struggler does not fear for his life because principles make and form his life. That is why I am not frightened by anything. You are in the PDRY and surrounded by thousands of struggling Muslim citizens who are quite prepared to return to Aden to regain legitimacy. These strugglers are not only armed with weapons, but also with legitimacy and belief. You are asking me about my life. I tell you that it is the property of these strugglers and a part of the Yemeni people's power and the alliance of its farmers and workers. A struggler is the last person to think of his own life.

With reference to your remark that I am excluded from the authority, that is incorrect. I represent legitimacy. That is why I am confident that my homeland will not renounce me.

[Al-Nuwayshi] Why don't you begin to return if your combat power is complete?

[Muhammad] The separatist clique's illegitimate action to control power has caused destruction and devastation in the country. They destroyed all of the revolutionary achievements we had struggled for for so long. I do not wish to finish off what is left — if there is anything left. I favor the framework of centralism tampered with by this clique which has blatantly violated the agreement of 5 February 1975 — considered by our masses as the most important achievement of the national and democratic Yemeni movement.

[Al-Nuwayshi] However, a new leadership is in control now. Don't you think this leadership should be given a chance?

[Muhammad] The new leadership, to which you referred, is not legitimate. It is merely a formation which has emerged while hiding the remnants and deposits of the past. This formation is based on tribal and clannish conflicts and not on our party unity which stems from internationalism. If this formation was sincere and liberal, it would have accepted dialogue as the principle to obtain a solution for the conflict. It has stretched its hatred to the level that it has expelled all of the patriotic groups known for their conscious party trends. It has also eliminated pioneering elements and alert cadres of the previous national front.

[Al-Nuwayshi] Maybe after this leadership has passed through a transitional period life in the PDRY will return to normal.

[Muhammad] How can life return to normal while it is still adopting a clannish conduct. This crazy separatist clique has caused a huge catastrophe in our country. Will this clique return life to normal while still destroying the economic and strategic achievements for which our people struggled for so many years? Life will not return to normal in our country unless this corrupt clique is eliminated, because it has bypassed the will of our brave Yemeni masses.

[Al-Nuwayshi] In the current circumstances, how do you envisage your political future?

[Muhammad] My future is connected with that of my country and cannot be separated from it. I have been and will be a combatant for the contemporary Yemeni renaissance. Do not ask about my future, but about my country's future, which has been destroyed by tribal hatred. Have faith that with support from this country's sincere sons I will rebuild it as a contemporary country. Our alert people will surpass this ordeal with continued struggle based on the revolution's principles.

[Al-Nuwayshi] Do you think the current authority will allow you what you want?

[Muhammad] A struggler does not wait for what he is allowed to do. If he is a true struggler, he must try to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the masses for the sake of the next generations. The YSP Political Bureau and Central Committee members and I will begin a dialogue and adhere to legitimacy. If the separatist clique prolongs its clannish tendencies, we will resort to another method to achieve legitimacy, which is a right.

[Al-Nuwayshi] Do you mean the military option?

[Muhammad] Will we have any other choice? We will not allow a clique of traitors to trample on the resources and achievements of our struggling and alert people with such ease. It is our right to struggle. We will take the military option, if the separatist clique rejects constructive and conscious dialogue.

[Al-Nuwayshi] But it seems that a majority of the Yemeni people have accepted the fait accompli.

[Muhammad] I don't accept this opinion, because it indicates defeatism that absolutely does not reflect the nature of our struggling people. Who told you that our people have accepted what has happened? Now, the whole world should know the killings and arrests of our unarmed citizens and party cadres in the capital of our country and in the majority of our villages and cities is madness that has left thousands of the sons of our people without shelter. Do you know about the demonstrations staged during the first hours of the incidents calling for the continuation of the legitimacy? Do you know that 15,000 citizens took part in these demonstrations and that these demonstrations were confronted with tanks and that over 5,000 citizens were killed? Do you know about the demonstrations staged by the women's society which demanded the legitimacy? The demonstrations were attacked and over a thousand of our struggling women were killed and several thousand were arrested. Do you know that the separatist clique broke into the houses of citizens and arrested some of them and assassinated others? Do you know that the separatist clique broke into hospitals and killed thousands of wounded citizens? Do the Yemeni people accept this? Our people are now facing the most difficult days. Our people are being mistreated without reasons and just because they are backing the legitimacy and the continuation of our progressive march.

[Al-Numayshi] The rulers in Aden are now saying exactly the same thing. They are saying that they are against splits and tribalism and that they are backing the revolution and struggle of the Yemeni people.

[Muhammad] Who believes this? Those who believe what they are saying should follow what is happening in our country. They will find that what they are saying is one thing and what is happening is something else. The separatist clique which destroyed our country is working for imperialism and for the backwardness of our country. This is the reality everyone should know. I again repeat that he who goes back to the third party congress in 1985 will definitely discover that the congress approved the party program, the internal system, the 5-year economic plan and that it unanimously elected the party leadership, including the Central Committee, the Political Bureau, and the secretary general. Those who followed the congress know that there were no differences on the revolutionary course of the party. Some elements tried to create differences for the purpose of destroying the party and revolution. When they failed in their separatist endeavors they decided to use tanks and missiles to crush and destroy the people, their intrinsic forces, and their strength acquired through struggle. Since this clique does not rely on any form of legitimacy and since it has no party or constitutional legitimacy it resorted to armed force to protect its imperialist interests. Knowing that it would be discovered and foiled by our struggling people it immediately deviated from the legitimacy which governs our constitutional and party movement.

[Al-Numayshi] Some elements said that you were aware of some parts of a conspiracy to overthrow the regime, but you did not move and left the coupists to consolidate themselves.

[Muhammad] I will say the truth. I received some information about suspected moves, but I never took these moves as separatist attempts. I have always resorted to democracy inside the Political Bureau to settle the problems which may erupt among comrades. I did not imagine that some comrades would incite backward chauvinism in a modern state. I believe in the unity of struggle. Therefore, I resorted to dialogue to construct and integrate our revolutionary experience so that it could become a guiding example in the region. I have been and am still trusting the ability of our people to surpass the hardship they are facing. What has happened is a bitter experience which will make us stronger and prompt our masses to stick to the revolutionary gains achieved by our struggling party. Those who reject democracy and resort to chauvinism and backwardness have violated the Constitution and the documents of our struggling party and its internal system. However, I affirm that our struggling people will learn the lesson well and that they will not allow those to destroy their long struggle for which they made many sacrifices. Anyone who deeply penetrates the delicate structure of the fascist clique will definitely discover the narrow outlook of this clique.

[Al-Nuwayshi] You could have stayed if you were confident about the Yemeni people's support for you.

[Muhammad] Who told you I have left the country? I am here as you can see. I did make some outside visits which were an integral part of our main goal — the return to legitimacy. We think collectively. Ask those young people who support them [not further identified]. Our country needs our support which will always be dedicated to rebuilding what the traitors destroyed. I shall invite you to visit Aden soon to witness how Yemen will be rebuilt after its destruction. Your problem is that you do not recognize the power and solidity of the Yemeni citizens who are capable of overcoming their painful plight. The world will learn a new experiment in construction which will be registered by mankind.

[Al-Nuwayshi] Thus, you insist on continuing the dispute?

[Muhammad] I object to this question. We do not want or promote a dispute. We are seeking legitimacy and will achieve it with our struggle. We will not allow the reactionary and imperialist forces to ruin our people's accomplishments. As I see it, legitimacy is the return to the program of the party's third annual congress and the productive Central Committee to represent our people. This is what we demand. What we do not accept is fascist and iniquitous forces tampering with our experiment. We will struggle against it to the last day of our lives. Our national cause cannot be bargained with. Extremism exercised thoroughly is real perfidy.

The results of the third annual party congress added a new page to our country's struggle and bright history. Our struggle has taken various forms and does not recognize dodgery. We will continue our struggle to build a new life for workers, farmers, and other toilers. The way our people have received this great historic event painted — through the unity of voice, action, and attitude — the horizons for the development of our revolutionary process. The third party congress crowned the preparation work carried out by the party and people, which they inaugurated by the work schedule document approved by the Central Committee's 14th session.

The results of the congress expressed the masses' love and respect for their leader, party and revolutionary and tested leadership represented by the Central Committee and the Political Bureau. At the same time, these results represented clear proof of the extensive and growing effect of the party on our worker and toiler masses — as it is the brain, honor, and remorse of the people. After all we have accomplished, how can we go back 1000 years? We do not accept this and our people do not accept it because they have sacrificed much.

[Al-Nuwayshi] Why did the Soviets abandon you and adopt the coupist leadership?

[Muhammad] Who said that? This is merely a rumor repeated by the United States which still carries all bad intentions toward the PDRY. The Soviets and Kuwait did not participate in the country's events in any manner. International imperialism seeks pretexts to intervene in the region's affairs. We do not accept it. We have warned and are still warning against interference in the PDRY's internal affairs. What has happened and will happen in our country is our internal affair. The YSP and Yemeni people alone can resolve the recent difficulties.

[Al-Nuwayshi] Why did Al-Qadhdhafi and Mengistu abandon you, since their support for you at the beginning of the events was obvious?

[Muhammad] There is no answer to this question.

[Al-Nuwayshi] What did your Arab tours and the tours which were made by some YSP Political Bureau members — who are still with you — achieve?

[Muhammad] I met with President al-Asad, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and President Chadli Bendjedid and they gave me a good welcome. My visits were successful and useful. During those visits, we presented the point of view of our country, people, and party to the brother leaders. We found them totally sympathetic to our people's issue. We also made visits to Ethiopia and we sent a number of delegations to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the Gulf countries, the socialist countries, and to a number of nonaligned countries. Our moves were successful. We also held a number of contacts with Arab and international organizations urging them to provide quick aid and relief to our people. I take this opportunity to thank and salute all those who have provided aid to our people during the current difficult and complicated circumstances.

[Al-Nuwayshi] How do you describe the future?

[Muhammad] I am confident that our struggling people and our party will restore their unity. I do not think there will be negotiations with the separatist clique while the people and the party cadres are being subjected to suppression in the prisons. There can be no solution to the destructive crisis caused to our country, unless our conditions are accepted. We have already stated our demands, which are the following:

1. To prevent the foreign interference in Yemen's affairs, regardless of the justifications;
2. To safeguard the party's unity;
3. To work to restore the national unity;
4. To defend the party legitimacy and to keep the party united by safeguarding what was agreed upon on 5 February 1975 and by what was agreed upon during the first party congress, the extraordinary party congress, and the third party congress held on 14 October 1985;
5. To adhere to the party's program and its documents;
6. To stop fighting our people and the party's pioneer cadres, to stop the massacres, to restore normal life and to be concerned with issues dealing with the people's everyday life. Also, to help return thousands of refugees to their homes, to put an end to the martial laws and to release the political detainees.

Those are the conditions we have stated. We cannot reach an understanding with the separatist clique without the implementation of those conditions.

[Al-Nuwayshi] What if they do not agree to those conditions?

[Muhammad] We have a substitute.

[Al-Nuwayshi] Your setting conditions gives the impression that there is a power backing you, thus making you put conditions regardless of the fact that those whom you are naming as the separatist clique have put everything in order?

[Muhammad] Yes, I have the power of the whole Yemeni people behind me and this is a basic issue.

[Al-Nuwayshi] What if your current Arab allies abandon you?

[Muhammad] The real power we rely upon lies in us, in a people who found their path to salvation and who will not abandon this path.

[Al-Nuwayshi] What about the unity programs with North Yemen?

[Muhammad] Like me, Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is sincere in his unity trend. We made big progress toward achieving the supreme goal of the Yemeni people. This step will continue because it is the aspiration of every Yemeni. Certainly, the unity aspiration cannot be achieved while this separatist clique is ruling our country, because this clique is attempting to demolish and abort the unity. Thus, I reaffirm once again that our people are able to overcome the ordeal and to restore the country's legitimacy from which we will further proceed toward the unity of the two parts of Yemen and consequently proceed toward the great goal, the unity of the Arab people.

Chadian Envoy Arrives in Cairo, Talks With Leaders

Mubarak Receives Nouri

NC221109 Cairo MENA in English 1055 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, Feb 22 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received today at the Republican Palace Mahamat Nouri, special envoy of Chadian President Hissein Habre. The meeting was attended by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs and the Chadian ambassador here.

Asks for Military Aid

NC221454 Paris AFP in English 1443 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, Feb 22 (AFP) — The Government of Chad has requested additional military aid from Egypt to help it battle Libyan-backed rebels in the north of the country, a senior Chadian official said here today. Mahamat Nouri, an envoy of Chadian President Hissein Habre, said after meeting here today with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak that he had asked Egypt for additional material support, but no troops. He added that Cairo already supplied the Habre regime with military aid and that the current request was for a step up in aid deliveries. Mr Nouri did not say how Egypt had responded to the request.

Nouri on Aid, Libya

NC221455 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA) — Mahamat Nouri, a special envoy of Chadian President Hissein Habre, has emphasized that Libya has committed acts of aggression against Chad. In a statement to journalists today, Nouri noted: Our accusations against Libya have been proven. We have captured a group of Libyan soldiers and have distributed their pictures to the Chadian and world media. They have seen these Libyan troops who have committed acts of aggression against Chad. Libya has also sent a plane to attack Ndjamena Airport.

When asked if French military aid to Chad is sufficient, and if there is a French military presence in the country, Nouri replied: We have some French Air Force units that have been given a special assignment. We believe that French air cover for our forces is now enough to stop any new Libyan attack on our territory.

Answering a question on whether he requested Egyptian aid during his meeting with President Mubarak, the Chadian envoy said: It is no secret that Chad has been receiving assistance from Egypt for a long time now. He added: We have called on all our friends to provide us with military equipment, and have asked France to give us air cover. However, we have not asked for a single soldier.

While answering a question on why Chad is requesting additional military aid even though the situation there is now calm, Nouri declared: The situation in Chad currently is calm, but it might change at any time — today, tomorrow, next week, or in a month's time.

Nouri had this to say on recent developments in Chad: The purpose of my visit to Egypt was to brief President Mubarak and other officials on conditions in Chad. My mission is in accordance with the friendly relations between Chad and Egypt. He said that he had delivered a message to President Husni Mubarak from Chadian President Hissein Habre.

Further on Jordan-PLO Issue, Egyptian Reaction

Husayn Phones Mubarak

NC231157 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA) — King Husayn of Jordan phoned President Husni Mubarak at noon today for an exchange of views on the current regional situation.

'Abd al-Majid on Jordan-PLO

NC221201 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that Egypt is currently involved in efforts to bring the views of the PLO and King Husayn closer together, and has expressed hope that they will be successful. In a statement to journalists today, 'Abd al-Majid noted that more time is needed to calm things down before addressing the primary problems.

When asked if King Husayn's speech was a surprise, 'Abd al-Majid replied: Without trying to comment on King Husayn's address of Yasir 'Arafat's reaction to it, I believe we should look more to the future than the past, and find ways of overcoming these differences. While answering a question on 'Arafat's position during his recent talks with the Jordanian monarch, 'Abd al-Majid declared: We must not pass judgment on anyone; that is not part of our current role. As to whether 'Arafat showed any flexibility during his talks in Cairo, 'Abd al-Majid pointed out: I feel we must look to the future. We have stated our own position clearly, and our job is to bring Jordan and the Palestinians closer together, if we can. We hope that our Arab brothers will help us in this, as it will serve the Palestinian issue and the cause of peace and stability.

'Abd al-Majid said: I do not think that the Jordanians or the Palestinians have closed every door. We understand the present difficulties. A statement was issued yesterday explaining Egypt's position. We are certainly trying to narrow the gap between the Palestinians and Jordanians wherever possible. When asked if Egypt had any advance knowledge of King Husayn's speech and his decisions, 'Abd al-Majid responded: I was abroad at the time. After I came back, I learned that President Mubarak had gotten in touch with King Husayn.

AL-AHRAM Editorial

PM240945 Cairo AL-AHRAM International Edition in Arabic 21 Feb 86 p 3

[Editorial: "When Will the Arabs Awaken From Their Slumber?"]

[Text] In a sudden development, Jordan's King Husayn announced the termination of the Jordanian-Palestinian accord following the failure of coordination between the two, which was due to the PLO's insistence on clear-cut U.S. recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination before announcing its acceptance of Security Council Resolution 242 and 338.

Whatever Jordan's reasons and motives for taking this step may be, and regardless of the influences and pressures that have prevented the moderates in the Palestinian leadership from proceeding on the path of peace to the end, in the end the only loser is the Palestinian problem, which with the passage of time is threatened with passing into oblivion. This is in addition to the grave loss for the Palestinian people, who are suffering bitterly under the yoke of Israeli occupation, persecution, and oppression in the West Bank and Gaza. Although this may not be a suitable time to apportion blame, it is clear that we as Arabs have not learned the lessons of failure since 1948 and up to this date and that we are still not up to the responsibilities required of us, having failed to adopt the most fundamental principles of using political tactics without jeopardizing the strategic objectives that cannot all be achieved at once.

Without boasting or gloating — for this is not the time to do so — we would say that when Egypt was insisting, warning, and appealing for the need to seize the historic opportunity for peace throughout 1985 following the positive signs that emerged on the international scene after the proclamation of the Jordanian-Palestinian accord, it did so out of concern and fear that failure to seize this opportunity might lead to the collapse of the accord and the lack of coordination we are witnessing today.

The situation being so grave now, all we can do is hope that this sudden and sensational development will not lead to a break in relations between the PLO and Jordan. Indeed we hope that dialogue and consultation between the two sides will not stop. King Husayn was right to say in his speech that the Palestinian axis remains at the center of Jordanian policies and that even if this round of political action between the Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships does not lead to achieving Jordan's goals, the Jordanian-Palestinian accord, with all its principles and tenets, will continue to embody the principles and constitute the basis governing ties between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples with respect to equal rights and duties in facing their common destiny. We also hope that the Arab leaders will awaken from their slumber. What more grave events and great disasters must there be before joint Arab action is awakened from this slumber? Perhaps King Husayn's warning of the terrible things that are happening in the occupied territories will remove all excuses for convening an urgent emergency Arab summit in order to discuss these developments.

Israel, O Arab nation, is still persisting in implementing its expansionist plans. Its immediate objective, O arab leaders, is to detach the Palestinian people from their land. What the Jordanian monarch said, even if it is painful for all of us, is true. That is, a people without land is a mere community, an identity without a homeland is merely a depot of sad memories, and a people persecuted in their land yet resisting is better than a people dispersed making threats and engaged in rhetoric.

Israel, O Arab nation, is continuing its repressive and terrorist policy in Lebanese territory. Not satisfied with swallowing all Palestinian land, day and night Israel is roaming southern Lebanon with its tanks, armored vehicles, and aircraft. It blows up houses, combs the land, arrests hundreds of people, and kills scores of them. In this recent incursion into Lebanon it reached the Al-Litani River, 25 km north of its borders with Lebanon.

In addition to the Palestinian and Lebanese catastrophes, the tragic developments of the Gulf war come as yet another clear warning of danger that no one should overlook. Yet, the majority of the Arab world is adopting a spectator's attitude toward this tragedy. Indeed, most unfortunately, there are people in the Arab world who support the Iranian regime and strengthen the Iranian war machine to enable it to continue its aggression against Iraq. The recent developments in Arab politics can no longer be merely described as problems, disasters, and crises. Indeed it is imperative that immediate action should be taken before it is too late in order to end disunity and disagreement and to unify efforts and join hands. If this does not happen immediately and without delay then history will have no mercy for those who hesitate and those who plot — wittingly or unwittingly — against the interests of their nation.

Further on Visit by Danish Queen, Foreign Minister

Mubarak: Talks 'Important'

NC231949 Cairo MENA in English
1914 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Luxor, Egypt, Feb 23 (MENA) — Queen Margrethe of Denmark and her husband Prince Henrik made a sightseeing tour today of Luxor where they saw the town's archeological sites. Meanwhile, Danish Ambassador William Thune Andersen said the queen was pleased with her meeting with President Husni Mubarak and termed her visit to Egypt as successful. He told MENA the queen's talks with President Mubarak were important and very constructive, noting that the talks opened spheres for bilateral cooperation in various fields. He further said Queen Margrethe's visit aims at supporting Egypt's role in pushing forward the peace process with a view to achieving peace in the Middle East.

Industry Minister Receives Delegation

NC232234 Cairo MENA in English 1925 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, Feb 23 (MENA) — Engineer Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab, minister of industry, received today the Danish delegation accompanying Queen Margrethe, which comprises 30 Danish businessmen. Engineer 'Abd al-Wahhab said that the two sides discussed cooperation between the two countries, especially in the domains of producing seed oils, canned fish, treatment of industrial pollution and vocational training in the sphere of food industries. The two sides also discussed the possibility of cooperation between the two countries in the field of ship building.

Danish Foreign Minister Departs

NC231705 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA) — Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, Danish foreign minister and a member of the delegation that accompanied Danish Queen Margrethe II during her official visit to Egypt, left Cairo today. The Danish foreign minister said that he met with a number of Egyptian finance and commerce officials to increase bilateral cooperation and to arrange Denmark's role in the Egyptian development plan. He said that he signed an agreement with Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and international cooperation, under which Denmark will extend a $47 million loan to Egypt as part of the Egyptian development plan.

'Abd al-Majid, Ghali Receive U.S. Senator Mathias

NC231511 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today met with Senator Charles Mathias, member of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who is currently visiting Egypt. During the meeting, which U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Veliotes attended, they reviewed the situation in the Middle East in light of the recent regional developments. 'Abd al-Majid affirmed the importance of further efforts to unify disparate views to reach the cherished goal of just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met with Senator Mathias at noon today and explained Egypt's opposition to racial discrimination and support for Namibia's independence. He also discussed the deteriorating economic situation in Africa, the international efforts to deal with this situation, and the convocation of the UN General Assembly extraordinary session in May to talk about how to confront the economic crisis in Africa.

Lutfi Praises U.S. Secretary of State's Remarks

NC231628 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi today received in his office U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Veliotes, the USAID director in Cairo, and the economic adviser at the U.S. Embassy. They reviewed issues of concern to the United States and Egypt. Ambassador Veliotes noted the U.S. secretary of state's comments to Congress on Egypt's importance in the Middle East. Lutfi expressed his appreciation of these comments. He explained the Egyptian Government interest in increasing U.S. investments, particularly in the areas of land reclamation and power production.

'Abd al-Majid, Netherlands Envoy Discuss Mideast

NC231644 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today met with Netherlands Ambassador N.H. Biegman as part of the current Egyptian contacts with the EEC to give impetus to the peace process. The Netherlands at present holds the EEC chairmanship. Dr 'Abd al-Majid and Ambassador Biegman reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East and the results of the deputy prime minister's meetings with 12 EEC foreign ministers. 'Abd al-Majid stressed Egypt's extreme interest in taking steps to increase the European role in the Middle East to boost the peace process.

'Abd al-Majid Addresses People's Assembly

NC232120 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has declared that, for Egypt, the Palestinian problem is linked to national and pan-Arab peace and security. He emphasized that Egypt will not end its efforts to achieve a peaceful and just solution to this problem, nor will it despair. In a statement to the People's Assembly's Committees for Arab, Foreign, and National Security Affairs this evening, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt will continue to welcome close contact with Jordan and the PLO to unify their views. He asserted that Egypt will faithfully and sincerely seek to maintain the momentum of the peace process.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid stated that Egypt has appealed to all the friendly and peace-loving states not to let the obvious differences in the Arab parties' stands weaken the international community, nor impede work on the peace process. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid affirmed that Egypt's position on the Iraq-Iran war continues to be governed by the same principles that Egypt has been propounding and emphasizing since the outbreak of the war: The political independence and territorial sovereignty of all states must be respected; and that international legitimacy and international law must also be respected. He said that Egypt rejects imposing conditions, and using threats and armed force to subdue the peoples' will. Egypt denounces these practices by any state against another. Dr 'Abd al-Majid noted that Egyptian national security is closely linked with the security of the region and Gulf area.

'Military Towns' Being Built Near Libyan Border

NC210804 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0700 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, has announced that two military towns [madinah 'askariyah] are being built in the Sidi Barrani and Marsa Matruh regions [near the Libyan border]. The projects are part of the Armed Forces plan to put up a number of such installations. Abu Ghazalah said that this type of town is seen as a way of stimulating the construction of new civilian communities, which will grow up around them.

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives in Baghdad

JN221846 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1827 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Feb (INA) — Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived here this evening on a visit to Iraq. He was received by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information and acting foreign minister, and Nuri Isma'il al-Wayyis, Foreign Ministry under secretary.

Received by Saddam Husayn

JN231827 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1712 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] President Saddam Husayn received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal this evening. The meeting was attended by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information and acting foreign minister, the president's secretary, and the Saudi ambassador in Baghdad.

President Returns From VII Army Corps Sector Tour

JN231706 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Feb (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has retuned to Baghdad at the end of a 5-day inspection tour of the VII Army Corps sector. At a meeting with Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy Armed Forces commander in chief and defense minister, Armed Forces General Command officers, the VII Army Corps commander, and field commanders, President Saddam Husayn was briefed on the arrangements and measures being made by the Iraqi Armed Forces to confront the Iranian aggression and repulse the enemy.

President Saddam Husayn also inspected an airbase and met with its commander, who briefed him on the Iraqi Air Force's capabilities and its means to deal devastating blows to the Iranian forces.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iran

Two New Attacks Reported

JN221332 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Feb (INA) — Staff Major General Mahir 'Abd al-Rashid, commander of the VII Army Corps Central column, has said that the Iraqi forces last night and this morning carried out two attacks on positions opposite the column which were occupied by Iranian forces.

In a statement to the Armed Forces radio station today, Maj Gen Mahir 'Abd al-Rashid affirmed that Iraqi forces managed to control many major positions after inflicting heavy losses on the Iranian forces. He also said that the two new attacks will be the key to a final victory over the Iranian forces on the VII Army Corps front.

Column Advances Reported

JN231614 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] VII Army Corps Sector, 23 Feb (INA) — The Iraqi southern, central, and northern columns continued their combat activities to destroy the aggressor Iranian forces and liberate the land in Al-Faw triangle of their filth. The INA team closely monitoring the progress of battles from forward positions on the VII Army Corps front says that fierce fighting took place last night between formations of the southern and central columns on one side and the Iranian forces which tried to recapture positions that the Iraqi forces had liberated yesterday and the night before on the other. The INA team says that the Iraqi formations entrenched their new positions and aborted all the enemy forces' offensives, inflicting heavy losses in life and equipment.

In a statement to the INA team, a field commander said that the liberated positions are of vital importance to the Iranians from the topographical point of view. Thus, the enemy made desperate attempts to recapture them. All these attempts failed and the enemy sustained heavy losses in life and equipment.

The INA team also says that formations of the central column launched a resolute offensive this morning and succeeded in liberating an important communications junction the enemy had occupied. Many enemy troops were killed or wounded while others surrendered to escape death. Destroyed enemy weapons and military hardware litter the battlefield.

On the flank of the southern column, fighting continues to rage as the column's formations strive to liberate the Iraqi land from the claws of the aggressors.

Another field commander told the INA team that the column's formations have advanced on the ground after crushing the Iranian forces and inflicting heavy losses.

Reporting on the activities of the northern column, the INA team says that formations from this column continued to support the central and southern columns today by pouring intensive fire on Iranian enemy positions and military hardware in a coordinated manner unprecedented in battles over the past 2 decades.

Forces Continue Battlefield Control

JN220822 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0645 GMT 22 Feb 86

[By Usamah al-Salihi]

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 22 Feb (INA) — The decisive hour when the Iraqi forces will end the Iranian forces' presence on Iraqi territory is getting closer. Military sources here affirm that on the 13th day of fighting, the Iranian forces appear to be in a desperate defensive position, and that their attacks are weak, thus confirming that they have lost their control and their morale. The desperate attempts by the Iranian command to keep the land is a sign that it has lost its military awareness following the new losses in life it sustained which have reached some 60,000 killed or wounded. The Iraqi units continue to tighten the siege on the Iranian forces despite the Iranian regime's attempts to bring in more reinforcements.

Press reports from the VII Army Corps front affirm that the Iraqi forces are imposing their complete control on the battlefield, and that thanks to the coordination of the various corps and the participation of surface-to-surface missile units and artillery, the Iraqi forces are destroying the remainder of the Iranian forces and preventing the enemy's attempts to bring in more reinforcements to assist the besieged forces.

The Iraqi forces are now concentrating their blows on Iranian troop concentrations on the Shatt al-Arab bank that is adjacent to Iranian territory, especially the positions that are adjacent to the palm strip on the shore. The Iraqi forces continue to intensively shell the Iranian forces day and night. An Iraqi war correspondent describes the intensive Iraqi firepower by saying: One does not know which gun is firing and in what direction. All that we know is that we hear the resounding roar of the guns from both sides.

The progress of the battles shows that the Iraqi forces' position is strong and cohesive and heralds further destruction of the aggressor forces. The successive Iranian attempts to introduce new units to penetrate Iraqi positions are being countered by a barrage of fire that destroys these units before they reach Iraqi positions. This strong Iraqi position on the ground is being enhanced by the complete control of the Navy and the Air Force at sea and in the skies of the battle.

The commander of the naval force and coastal defenses stressed today that his forces have succeeded in isolating the Iranian Navy and removing it from battle. He added that the naval force has also prevented it from coming to the rescue of the besieged Iranian forces. The commander added that the men of the Iraqi Navy have destroyed 31 supply ships, several units of the Iranian Navy, two missile boats, and one escort vessel, and that they are determined to destroy Iranian maritime targets.

Iraqi fighter planes and helicopter gunships are also imposing their complete control in the skies of the battle and are dealing blows to the Iranian rear lines. These planes continue to pour thousands of bombs on Iranian troop concentrations and supply routes deep inside Iranian territory and are putting Iranian fighter planes out of action.

In air sorties that have been unprecedented in history in terms of intensity, results, and impact on the progress of battles, Iraqi pilots are effectively contributing to crushing the aggressors and destroying Iran's economic resources. They carried out 5,969 combat missions during the past 13 days.

The military situation on the VII Army Corps front, where the Iraqi forces are advancing to crush the Iranian forces' infrastructure, confirms that the decisive hour is close and that a real catastrophe will befall these forces.

An Iraqi field commander says: We are now only a short distance from the area where the Iranian forces will be completely wiped out, and that the next few days will witness the crushing of the Iranian Army.

Naval Forces' Progress Reported

JN221244 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1208 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] The commander of the naval force and coastal defense has stressed that the valiant Iraqi naval forces are imposing their complete control on the battlefield in the northern part of the Arab Gulf and are dealing deadly blows to the defeated enemy forces.

In an interview with the correspondents of Baghdad Radio and Voice of the Masses, the commander added that the Iraqi naval force, through its operations and the effective use of the various types of weapons and naval units it possesses, offers the best kind of support for the ground forces while they continue their advance to wipe out the enemy and abort its attempts to desecrate our lofty soil.

The commander added: Our naval forces have inflicted heavy losses in life and equipment on the enemy and have made Arab Gulf waters the resting place for the destroyed enemy units. He added that the enemy sustained, among others, the following losses: 16 supply ships, 3 missile gunboats, 1 raft, and 1 early warning vessel were destroyed; 1 landing boat was captured; 3 fighter planes were shot down; and several enemy soldiers were taken prisoner.

The commander said: Our valiant naval forces succeeded in paralyzing enemy movements and banned it from appearing at the head of the Arab Gulf.

The commander of the naval force and coastal defense emphasized the naval forces' determination to remain the strong and faithful protector of the Arab Gulf and to teach harsh lessons to the enemy. He also stressed that the naval forces have a role to play in scoring Iraq's victory.

Correspondents on Iranian Dead

JN231154 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1107 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] South Iraq, 23 Feb (INA) — War correspondents in the operational theater in the southernmost area of Iraq have said that the fierceness of the Iraqi counterattack is escalating in order to bring the decisive end of the battles closer and to bury the rest of the invading Iranian troops in mass graves unprecedented in this 6-year war. War correspondents note that the Iranians who have escaped death are quickly retreating in disarray and some of them are being hunted by Iraqi snipers while the Iraqi forces are advancing in regular thrusts forward.

Correspondents say that special Iraqi units are burying the Iranian bodies, which have been torn apart by Iraqi artillery, rocket launchers, and plane and helicopter attacks and which are rotting on the battlefield. Correspondents add that whenever the Iraqi forces liberate a new area, certain units are assigned the task of burying dead Iranians who had been abandoned by their retreating comrades.

War correspondets point out that the past 2 weeks of fierce fighting in the VII Army Corps front included several attacks and counterattacks during which the Iraqi forces had the initiative at all times. This is corroborated by daily events. The Iraqi forces' drive, which is continuing day and night in accordance with precise planning along the three columns, is resulting in Iranian retreat with high Iranian casualties and immense losses. This shows the Iraqi forces' insistence on wiping out the Iranian invaders in their small triangle.

The correspondents note that the Iranian command will face dire consequences because of the massacre to which they pushed thousands of troops in a new adventure that is bound to fail. These correspondents believe that Iran will face a major disaster which the Iranian generations will never forget.

Communiques Issued on Combat Activities

No 2,124 — 21 Feb

JN211815 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Communique No 2,124 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 21 February 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our position at the front is increasingly being strengthened and entrenched. Our massive armies, which are well armed and whose morale is extremely high, are imposing their domination over every area in the operational theater. Rivers of fire are facing the Khomeyniites. The implementation of our plan to wipe out the largest number of aggressors is approaching complete success. Wiping out the rest of the enemy troops in their tight spot and purging the final inch of their filth are now taken for granted.

Our enemy is living through most difficult, critical, and desperate circumstances. While tens of thousands of its hordes have been wiped out, huge quantities of its weapons and equipment have been destroyed, and the infrastructure of its forces has been crushed, our enemy has not realized any of its aims and has not achieved anything with which to deceive itself or give its deceitful media to chew on.

The charlatans' regime is completely impotent. It is trying in vain to ignore a veritable disaster that is hemming it in on all sides. With God's help and thanks to the wisdom of our leadership and the great performance of our valiant men, the regime of charlatans has lost the battle and the war. It will lose its very existence because this is the just punishment of tyrants and unbelievers.

1. In the VII Army Corps sector our forces in the southern column last night carried out a series of raids on enemy positions in front of them, inflicting massive losses on the Khomeyniites. At dawn today enemy groups attempted to approach our positions, but our heroes of the southern column confronted them with their firepower and wiped them out. Our forces in this area are imposing their absolute control and are inflicting massive losses on the Khomeyniites day and night. In the central and northern sectors our forces continued to direct heavy fire at enemy units in front of them, inflicting further losses on enemy men, weaponry, and equipment, and forcing the enemy to leave its units at the mercy of our firepower. Thus, the enemy ranks are being split and its concentrations are being dismembered with the aim of wiping them out. God bless the men who have pounded the basic enemy effort in order to open the door to the final, approaching victory.

2. Iraq's eagles are continuing their flights, distributing death among the Khomeyniites. Whether the enemies are on land or at sea, on their positions or on the roads at the front or inside Iran, Iraq's wrath is falling on their heads in order to smear them with mud and punish them in accordance with the will of our great people. Our planes carried out 373 raids today during which our planes destroyed huge quantities of weapons, equipment, and hardware and inflicted massive casualties, thus increasing the despair of the Iranian rulers and doubling their ignominy.

3. Our brave naval forces are crushing any hostile target that appears before them, preventing any enemy presence in the northern Arab Gulf. Our naval forces' men are affirming that the sea is exclusively theirs and that any Khomeyniite unit will end up deep on the seabed. Our naval force carried out the following missions:

a. At 2053 [1753 GMT] yesterday a large supply ship, towing three medium-size ships, was destroyed.

b. At 0250 today our brave naval force sighted an enemy early warning vessel north of the Arab Gulf. It directed its missiles at the vessel, turning it into small pieces.

4. The men of the helicopter gunships have been covering the skies of the battle, pouncing on Khomeyniite troop concentrations and weapons. In precise coordination with our land forces, the helicopters continued to push the Khomeyniite hordes toward the mill of death operated by our men in a manner that the enemies of Iraq deserve. Today the helicopter gunships carried out 333 missions after which our helicopters and pilots returned safely to base, praise be to God.

5. Our units in the III Army Corps sector east of al-Basrah directed intensive artillery fire at enemy positions, killing 20 and destroying 2 infantry positions, 3 boats, 2 mortar positions, and 1 small vehicle. In the same sector three ammunition dumps were also destroyed.

6. The criminal enemy shelled Al-Qurnah suburbs with long-range artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 February 1986

No 2,125 — 22 Feb

JN221800 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1707 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Communique No 2,125 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 22 February 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The promise of God is truthful and deeds are producing the best results. The determination of men is bearing fruit in the form of victory and all-comprehenisve welfare. Iraq was and will continue to be an averter of evil, a dam in the face of greed, and a fire for the spiteful invaders. Today the Khomeyniite knaves realize that by antagonizing Iraq they antagonize only life and development and that those who antagonize life will never be successful. If they dream of occupying an inch of our territory, they will reap nothing but annihilation. If they plan to harm the sovereignty of this free, prosperous homeland, they will reap only an abject defeat which history will speak of forever. It is on themselves, then, that the Khomeyniites are incurring harm.

Today's battles prove that the soldiers of justice have relentlessly twisted the necks of the enemies. Our enemy is retreating. It lost and is losing thousands of those whom it collected through trickery or persecution. Meanwhile, our columns are forging their way toward their objectives, guarded by God, cleansing the land of their filth. Valor and audacity are marching along with our columns. The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. The VII Army Corps front:

a. Our forces in the central column began a resolute and crushing attack on enemy positions, penetrating them one after another, purging the land of the filthy enemies, wiping out their remnants, and inflicting massive losses in men, equipment, weapons, and hardware. Our brave forces in this valiant column managed to liberate territory 3 km deep along a 3-km front. Thus, this column is now on the second eastern edge of Mamlaha. This offensive has given this column a distinctive, qualtative combat position. Our forces immediately began to fortify the liberated positions and the situation there was settled in favor of our triumphant forces.

b. Our forces in the valiant southern coastal column mounted a lightning, crushing attack on two axes: the coastal axis and the axis that parallels it. Our brave men in both axes destroyed enemy defenses and penetrated over the bodies of the Khomeyniites there. After the column in the coastal axis had purged territory 1.35 km deep and after the column in the parallel axis had purged 1 km and controlled the front between the two axes, our forces immediately fortified their positions. The situation in this sector was settled in favor of our triumphant forces. Enemy losses opposite this column were very heavy.

c. Our forces in the northern column continued to engage the enemy with heavy fire in order to neutralize it and inflict losses on its forces. God bless you, O brave men, commanders, officers, and other ranks. You rose up to the level and were the sword of justice that is striking at the enemy. Move ahead. May God guide your steps along the path of victory. He is the best supporter and helper.

2. Since dawn today, Iraq's brave eagles have continued their mighty raids and attacks on our enemies, mutilating their remnants, destroying their equipment and arms, chasing them, destroying their supply and communication links. They carried out 363 combat missions today during which they mutilated a large number of the rotten bodies which the Tehran rulers are throwing into the war mill. They also succeeded in striking at major enemy centers in the operational theater and directing destructive strikes at enemy artillery. They again raided most of the bridges which they had previously destroyed in order to prevent the enemy from repairing and reusing them.

While dealing devastating blows to the remnants of aggression, they never take their eyes off the enemy's vital targets. They also managed to achieve the following:

a. They launched a new successful raid on Khark Island at 1505 [1205 GMT] today, accurately hitting their targets and setting them ablaze.

b. At the same time, they launched another raid on a large maritime target near the Iranian coast, hitting it accurately and effectively.

After carrying out their duty, our eagles returned safely and triumphantly to base under God's care and protection. God bless you, O brave eagles. Blessed be your arms, O sons of the best nation.

3. The valiant cavaliers of the helicopter gunships continue to fly over the battlefield and to perform a heroic role in annihilating the forces of the rogues and dropping merciless bombs on their equipment and vehicles. With precise coordination, they are providing excellent support for our brave ground forces. They carried out 207 combat missions today, after which they returned safely and triumphantly to base, praised be God.

4. Our brave Navy, which is guarding Iraq's waters and defending its coasts, today carried out a rare heroic naval operation. It fired its missiles at a bridge in (Ra's Abadan), destroying it. Thus, the brave men of the Navy continue to deliver destructive strikes against enemy transport routes and supply lines, giving new evidence daily of the criminal enemies' defeat by Iraq's power.

5. Our brave units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah killed 20 enemy troops and destroyed 3 ammunition dumps and 1 observation post. Seven enemy troops were killed and one infantry position and one observation post were destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan. Two vehicles loaded with ammunition and personnel were set on fire in the northern I Army Corps sector.

6. The criminal enemy shelled the district of Abu al-Khasib with long-range artillery, killing one civilian and damaging one shop.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 February 1986

No 2,126 — 23 Feb

JN231754 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Communique No 2,126 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 23 February 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The great Iraqi people have proved and are proving through heroic fighting by their sons that they are the force capable of foiling the Zionist conspiracy against their sovereignty, land, and course, a conspiracy which is using the Iranian rulers as its pawns. The Iranian regime has been revealed to the world at large as a regime of terrorists which commits aggression against the territory of others and a regime which is hostile to progress and immersed in agentry.

On the military level, the regime of charlatans has thrown all the riffraff and weapons it possesses into its current aggression. This attempt has been futile and has not attained any of its evil designs. The Khomeyniites' losses are so heavy than they can no longer conceal or replace them. Only a handful of the riff-raff the Tehran rulers have used to desecrate our land remains. This handful is waging a desperate battle while retreating under the hammers of the Iraqis pounding their heads day and night.

The Tehran regime can no longer carry out conspiracies because the prattle of the Iranian rulers cannot be a source of strength and will not save them from any tribulation. They have lost all the assets they had. Their only option now is to admit defeat. This day is close.

The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. On the VII Army Corps front:

Our forces on this front scored a new victory today, inflicting further losses on the enemy to be added to its past heavy losses. Following the achievement our valiant Armed Forces attained in the area of the heroic central column yesterday, and in view of the importance of the area that was purged and its important location, the frustrated enemy tried to approach our liberated positions last night. However, our valiant forces of this column foiled all these attempts and transformed enemy troop concentrations into dust littering the battlefield. The central column launched a lightning offensive against enemy positions this morning, storming them, and purging the land 1.6 deep along a 2-km front. With this offenisve, our men succeeded in controlling an important logistical area, allowing our forces to be in better positions to reach their targets.

In the coastal southern column, and following this heroic column's control of an important area yesterday, the enemy tried to approach our liberated positions in this sector. However, our heroic forces of this column opened fire on enemy units and backed by volleys of our artillery, completely wiped them out. The enemy sustained very heavy losses in front of this column yesterday evening and today.

With respect to the northern column, our forces continued to engage the enemy in battle and to inflict heavy losses on it.

May God bless the men of the VII Army Corps front. Proceed forward to achieve more victories until we purge the last inch of our land of the aggressors' filth.

2. Since early this morning, squadrons of our daring planes have continued violent and destructive raids on the Khomeyniite rogues, their positions, weapons emplacements, and road complexes, inflicting on them the wrath of God and that of the Iraqis. The brave eagles carried out 300 combat missions today during which they sowed death among thousands of enemy troops, leaving them dismembered in the valleys, and destroying large quantities of their equipment, arms, military hardware, and artillery positions. Our brave eagles also carried out a fierce and devastating raid on the Ganaveh oil pipeline intersection at 1540 [1240 GMT] today to prevent the enemy from repairing the facilities in this intersection. After carrying out their duty, our brave eagles safely returned with their planes to the homeland, praise be to God.

Blessed be your hands, O eagles. Blessed be your hands and hand out more blows that will uproot their remnants.

3. All day today, our brave knights of the Army's air corps continued their daring sorties, dealing the most devastating blows to enemy units with their missiles in 247 combat sorties, after which they safely and triumphantly returned to base, praise be to God.

4. Our valiant men of the Navy continue to deprive the enemy of the use of the Arab Gulf waters, dealing destructive blows to its remnants and its naval units.

5. Using artillery, tank fire, and other types of weapons, our forces continue to deal blows to enemy areas opposite their positions. Two tanks and one excavator were destroyed and several enemy troops were killed in the I Army Corps northern sector. Five enemy troops were killed and two ammunition dumps were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. Five rafts were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris. Four infantry positions and one medium-caliber machine-gun position were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

An enemy plane, an F-4, tried to penetrate our international borders on the VII Army Corps front. Our ground resistance men in the central column confronted it and shot it down among our units at 1014 today.

May God bless the men of our valiant ground resistance. Let the guns of the men be always raised to achieve more feats.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 February 1986

Support Expressed for King Husayn on Palestine Issue

House Holds Sesson; Speeches Made

JN221309 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Amman — The House of Representatives held an emergency session at 1030 today to discuss the comprehensive speech which His Majesty King Husayn addressed to the sons of the Arab nation last Wednesday night and in which he reviewed developments in the Palestine issue, Jordan's vision of this question, and the stage it has reached.

Several representatives delivered speeches in which they hailed His Majesty King Husayn and affirmed the absolute support of the sons of the people on both banks for the contents of the king's speech as well as their blessing of the steps taken by his majesty, who has devoted his life to defending the Palestine question in Arab and international forums. They also affirmed their support for the steps taken by His Majesty King Husayn to save the land and the kinfolk, who are suffering from the occupation authorities' measures and plans to annex the land and empty it of its inhabitants. They said that the continuation of the state of no war-no peace causes the loss of peace opportunities and benefits the enemy who seeks to separate the inhabitants from the land. They affirmed the citizens' adherence to the sacred unity of both banks which was founded by their fathers and forefathers. They said that Jordan and Palestine are one country, one homeland, and one people. Those who cast doubt on this unity, they added, will not achieve their designs. They said: The more doubts they cast, the stronger and firmer the unity becomes. They affirmed that the unity of both banks is unity of land, blood, destiny, and future whose foundations were laid by their fathers and forefathers in the [1950] Jericho Conference.

The representatives renewed their pledge, loyalty, and allegiance to His Majesty King Husayn, who has endured hardships for the sake of the Palestine question. They urged His Majesty King Husayn to continue the march in order to save the kinfolk and the homeland and to achieve a just comprehensive settlement of the Palestine question.

House Issues Support Statement

JN221620 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 22 Feb 86

["Text" of statement issued by House of Representatives on 22 February; read in presence of King Husayn at the Royal Hashemite Court in Amman — read by announcer]

[Text] Your Majesty King Husayn, may God support you and guide your steps. We, the representatives of the nation and the one Jordanian people on the two banks of the Kingdom, have the honor to extend to your majesty our greetings, appreciation, and respect coupled with full loyalty to your majesty and your beloved throne.

The representatives of the nation have listened wholeheratedly to your comprehensive, pan-Arab speech addressed to your loyal people and your glorious Arab nation. The speech was characterized by complete frankness and clarity and reveals the facts about the efforts you have exerted for the sake of the central issue, the sacred Palestine question, as well as your painstaking efforts to develop joint actions with the PLO leadership and the political gains you have achieved in the international arena and in world public opinion as a result of your self-esteem and your loyal people's respect for you, as well as your credibility in word and deed.

Your majesty, the representatives of the nation on Jordan's two banks held an emergency meeting this morning to review your speech and to study the subject in the service of the nation, the homeland, and the future of our kinfolk in our occupied land. The representatives of the nation, who have faith in your wise leadership, appreciate the greatness of the responsibility you have assumed since you took office, your constitutional responsibilities, and since you took up the message of your noble, blessed grandfathers who were martyred for the sake of the Palestine question and in defending its Arabism.

Our people absolutely believe in their sacred constitutional unity, which was achieved as a result of the desire of people on both banks and which was endorsed by the parliament of the two banks of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on 24 April 1950.

Your majesty, during your march with the PLO, you accepted the responsibility and sympathized with the people, who are suffering from the harshness of the occupation in the usurped land, and you tried to achieve the best results. We had hoped that our brothers would face up to their responsibility and the cause in their positions and recognize the dangers of displacement and Judaization against our kinfolk. We were with you on that march as you demonstrated full patience, opened your heart to every opinion and dialogue, and gave close attention to salvation, freedom, stability, and peace for your people, who placed their confidence in your majesty and entrusted you with the tasks of salvation, protection, and stability.

Despite this, we were surprised, to our pain and sorrow, by the obstacles and selfish interests that cut short your good, purposeful endeavors to enable the Palestinian people to gain their rights and to defend this people, who have achieved cohesion and a sacred, ideal unity with their brothers, the Jordanian people. The meaning of that unity took deep roots between the sons of the two banks and formed one cohesive family around your dear beloved throne, a fact that foiled all attempts to harm this sacred unity and that will, God willing, foil every other attempt at present and in the future. The fraternity linking the two banks is not only a result of history, experience, culture, economy, and sociology, but also of their common destiny.

You majesty, the House appreciates the decision of your majesty and the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom to announce, after two long attempts, the inability to continue political coordination with the PLO leadership. We, as representatives of our people on the two banks, announce our absolute support for the decision you and your government have made. We also support your majesty's decision to continue support for the kinfolk in any way you deem appropriate and in accordance with potentials and needs. We renew our pledge to remain as we have always been in Jordan. We will continue to rally around your dearly beloved throne, to be honest to our nation and cause, to support each other, and assume our responsibility for our national, pan-Arab, and fateful duty.

Your majesty, Jordan's role in defending the Palestine question and assuming its responsibilities is a historic one which began with the beginning of the cause long before the creation of the PLO. Jordan's message in defending the Arab cause and in serving its goals and aspirations is also a historic one which began with the creation of Jordan at the beginning of this century, long before the emergence of regional trends, slogans, and interpretations of Arab action and life. As you are the inheritor of the role and the message, the owner of the banner, the defender of the call of your great grandfather the savior, Al-Husayn ibn 'Ali, for the Arabs' unity, freedom, and a better life, and the defender of the call of your grandfather, 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn, for achieving the unity of the two banks of the river, you will remain the source of hope, aspirations, will, and pride. We on the two banks will remain loyal soldiers and will continue to rally around you. We will make any sacrifice to save our cause from any stalemate, to secure an objective and enlightened move toward peace within the framework of an Arab stand, to concentrate on its positive aspects, and to provide the factors of strength to achieve victory for the cause and transfer the kinfolk from a state of despair and occupation to a state of confidence, freedom, and independence. Your majesty, may God protect you and guide your steps on the way of liberation, unity, and success. May the peace and blessings of God be upon you.

Senate Issues Statement

JN231920 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 23 Feb 86

["Text" of statement issued by Senate on 23 February; read in presence of King Husayn at Royal Hashemite Court in Amman — read by announcer]

[Text] Your Majesty King Husayn, may God support you and guide your steps, Following the convening of its emergency session this morning, the Senate has the honor to extend to your majesty great respect and absolute loyalty coupled with profound appreciation and thanks for the comprehensive pan-Arab speech addressed to your Jordanian-Palestinian family, to your Palestinian brethren everywhere, and to your glorious Arab nation.

As a pioneering leader who does not lie to his kinfolk, you acquainted the people and nation with the facts, events, and developments. You outlined the features of the good efforts you have exerted to achieve a just and comprehenisve peace and to save the kinfolk and sanctities from the claws of the unjust occupation.

We listened to that pan-Arab speech with open minds and hearts, read it several times, and discussed it in order to learn from it. Undoubtedly, this speech will occupy an important position among responsible, genuine historical documents. It will also outline for the citizens the dimensions and meanings of events and will define the landmarks and horizons of the future. Those who have consciences cannot overlook the following facts:

1. The Hashemite leadership has a profound commitment to defend the Palestinian people's rights to their territory and homeland despite heavy sacrifices. This commitment cannot be harmed by supercilious attitudes or one-upmanship.

2. The Palestinian and Jordanian peoples have cohesion in bad and good times. They are cohesive concerning national and pan-Arab security as well as concerning unity of will and joint destiny. This pioneering national unity has the right to remain a pillar for our noble objective and joint effort. It will remain a firm rock on which the waves of division, partition, and fragmentation will founder. Within the framework of this cohesion, the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement will continue to embody the bases governing relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples as regards equality of rights and duties in facing the one joint destiny.

3. Jordan insists on persistent action to regain the occupied territories and the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights within the framework of a just and comprehensive peace settlement without separate solutions or the selling out of rights. We will not forget what was mentioned in the decision uniting the two banks about preserving all Arab rights in Palestine and rightfully defending these rights by all legitimate means, as well as not harming a final settlement of the just Palestine question.

4. Jordan is determined to construct an impregnable defensive line that includes rebuilding the Armed Forces, modernizing their weapons, and supplying them with youths in compulsory military service and volunteers in the Popular Army. Jordan will thus become the homeland for the army of the people and for the people who are of the army, thereby bolstering intrinsic power and internal impregnability in order to tenaciously defend the soil of the homeland and all Arab land in the face of any sinful aggression.

5. We greet the steadfastness of our kinfolk who are proudly standing fast on the land of the grandfathers and fathers, who are standing high in the shackles of bondage, and whose steadfastness is a heroic epic in the face of oppression, arbitrary measures, and disavowal of human rights and basic freedoms which all world peoples practice. Moreover, there is a sure commitment to support their steadfastness and facilitate their matters. We look forward to the day when we will see them a free people on their land, secure in their houses, confident of their present and future, and proud of the fruits of their steadfastness and struggle.

Your majesty, you provided a full explanation of what Israel's policy and measures mean in terms of settlements, Judaization, expulsion, as well as attacks on the Holy Places, sanctities, freedoms, and resources, besides the attempts to obliterate the Palestinian identity. You also gave a detailed explanation noting the grave challenges and dangers posed to Jerusalem, to the geographic situation, and to the population in the occupied Arab territories in the event of the no war-no peace situation — a situation that gives Israel an opportunity to separate the people from their land. We are dutybound to move away from this situation, to exert intensified efforts and make continuous moves which result in returning the land and legitimate rights to their owners.

Under the current Arab circumstances, your majesty has been able to visualize available potentials and promising ways to liberate the land, the kinfolk, and the sanctities through a UN-sponsored international conference to be attended by the Security Council permanent member states, by all parties involved in the dispute, and by the PLO on an equal footing with the other parties, considering that it is the party entitled to talk about the most important and most serious dimension in the Middle East crisis — the Palestinian dimension. During the conference, Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 should be implemented in letter and spirit on the basis of an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied land in return for peace.

As you continued your efforts to secure the necessary consensus for convening this conference, your chief concern centered on ways to entrench the PLO's role in achieving a just and lasting peace and to portray the PLO in official symposiums and international forums as a responsible body that is willing to exert efforts to achieve peace just as other peace-loving forces are doing. Your majesty has exerted extraordinary efforts to secure international support for the conference and for the PLO and its right to attend it on equal footing with the others in order to defend the Palestinian people's rights, particularly their right to self-determination.

As your majesty made clear, there was coordination with the PLO leadership at every stage and in every step. There was a deep analysis of every text and every expression of views or reactions with the aim of convening an effective international conference and paving the way for PLO participation in it.

You frequently overcame difficulties in favor of this aim; but the PLO mixed its views of the issue of withdrawal from the occupied territories and the issue of legitimate Palestinian rights. The PLO believes that it is both the land and the rights. Although the PLO had agreed with the Jordanian leadership on an appropriate formula for a joint political move within the Arab framework, it retreated from the agreement. It is noteworthy here to refer to the failure of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation's mission in London in 1985 — that failure which Yasir 'Arafat called a tragedy that should not be repeated. We are most displeased by the recurrence of the change of positions, the violation of promises and pledges, and the series of acceptances and rejections time and again.

Those far and near have sensed your majesty's personal suffering and your deep sorrow as you found out that those painstaking efforts did not yield fruits and the opportunities were not seized, contrary to our wishes. Therefore, you have decided to stop political coordination with the PLO leadership until its word becomes its bond in terms of commitment, credibility, and firmness.

The Senate considers this regrettable result that followed severe suffering and exhaustion as a logical end dictated by the facts of the situation and the ways of dealing with it. It is this leadership's duty to go back to the Palestinian brothers everywhere to study their positions, to assess their performance, and to rise above personal considerations to the level of the sacred cause, which cannot undergo further delay, hesitation, and lost opportunities. We believe that the Palestinian people will rearrange their priorities and consider the liberation of the land, the kinfolk, and the sanctities from the yoke of occupation as their top priority.

Your majesty, in light of the facts of this comprehensive pan-Arab statement, the Senate fully supports your wise policy and backs your inspired leadership in order to serve Palestine and to seek freedom, unity, and better life for us and for the Arabs. May God grant you success, guide your steps, give you victory, and support you. May the peace and blessings of God be upon you.

PLA Commander Delivers Address

JN211403 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn met at the Royal Hashemite Court today with the Palestine Liberation Army [PLA] commander and officers in Jordan who came to express their support for his majesty's pan-Arab line and for the political course his majesty explained in his comprehensive pan-Arab address. Na'im al-Khatib, commander of the PLA forces in Jordan, delivered a speech. He said: With amity, pride, appreciation, and support, in my name and on behalf of all PLA forces in Jordan — officers, NCO's, and soldiers — we extend to your majesty our best greetings and wish your majesty welfare and success. May God's protection preserve you and may God guide your steps to promote this nation's glory and to build the edifice of its pride and progress. This nation has been great since the light of guidance illuminated the world with the message of the Prophet Muhammad. God bless him and grant your great grandfather salvation.

Greeting your majesty with amity and appreciation, we recall your majesty's favors for the Badr Forces, which gained your patronage and support in the hard times they experienced. Moreover, you extended material and moral support until they managed to proceed on their way and remained proud, like this country, under your wise leadership. I, together with my brother officers, recall the assistance and military support we received when there was an urgent need for supporting our brethren in Lebanon. The Badr Forces were the vanguard of the backing forces. Recalling this venerable stand, I also recall the care and support extended to me, as well as the weapons, munition, and equipment you extended to us, which we needed and which were extended to us on your majesty's orders.

Soldiers from these forces fell martyrs on Lebanese territory in defense of the Palestinian revolution and the honorable brethren in Lebanon. We recall and have pride in your majesty's words when you received the forces returning from Lebanon, which healed our wounds. You hailed the heroism of these forces and asked God to have mercy on their martyrs. Moreover, you extended material support for all personnel of these forces whether alive or martyred.

Your majesty, we listened with great interest to your majesty's comprehensive address that contained great facts and several issues which should be carefully considered. These facts and issues were full of useful experience gained by your majesty which has made you an example of a pioneering leader who is sincere and honest.

Your majesty, at this blessed moment, I wish to stress the following matters:

1. We say publicly that we believe that the unity of the two banks is an existing sacred unity and that no one has the right to harm or object to it, because it is a unity of blood, objective, and fate.

As your majesty has said, the sons of the two banks who established and participated in laying its foundation all these years maintained this unity, of which we are proud. My Lord, they did not allow or enable anybody, whoever he is, to split this sacred, strong unity. Any call of this kind is suspect and serves the Zionist enemy only.

2. We believe that the Armed Forces and the Badr Forces are the same and have the same objectives. As your majesty has said, the Jordanian Armed Forces are the shield and protector of this homeland and nation. We know that your majesty agrees that the Badr Forces are among the units you mean. The best proof of that is the support and backing these forces receive in Jordan.

3. Hearing your majesty's speech on the hard and gruelling march you had taken throughout all these long years, particularly last year, we believe in your sincere efforts. This is not unusual for your majesty because you carry the banner carried by your grandfather, Al-Husayn ibn 'Ali. May God have mercy on him, the leader of the great Arab revolt, who sacrificed all in defense for the Palestinian Arab people's rights. The Palestinian revolution is indeed an extension of the great Arab revolt.

4. We are with you in greeting the steadfast, proud kinfolk who are under the yoke of captivity, who stand fast on the ancestors' land. We consider your majesty's pledge to them a pledge of honesty, love, and sincerity.

We appeal to our brother Arabs to share this position, to act according to what is included in your speech, to support and back the kinfolk in occupied Paelstine, to offer all that is necessitated by the national duty toward them, and to provide material support for the valiant Jordanian Armed Forces.

We appreciate your pan-Arab and national stands, as well as your contribution to all Arab and Islamic causes. May God protect and preserve you.

King Husayn thanked the PLA commander and officers, saying: I truely thank you in this home which is your own home. The Badr Froces are part of us despite all circumstances. Most proudly, I greet this spirit.

Be certain that we have always considered your fate our own fate and your objective our objective. I beseach God to help us to work together to work to rescue the land, kinfolk, and rights for the sake of coming generations' dignity. It is one march, one objective, and one end. It is God who protects our march. My greetings to all the kinfolk.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and Staff General al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

West Bank Representatives Stress Support

JN220942 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Feb 86 p 1

[Excerpts] Amman — The West Bank representatives held a meeting at the Parliament building yesterday evening in the presence of House Speaker 'Akif al-Fayiz and Dr Sami Judah, minister of state for parliamentary affairs. The conferees reviewed the contents of the comprehensive national speech delivered by His Majesty King Husayn dealing with the developments in the Palestinian issue and the halting of political coordination with the PLO.

The representatives stressed their adherence to King Husayn's wise leadership and the unity of the two banks to confront the dangers and challenges. They also praised the efforts by his majesty the leader to liberate the territory and find a just and permanent solution to the issue of our people in the occupied territory.

Palestine Committee Sends Cable

JN221345 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] The higher Arab Committee for Palestine held a meeting today during which it considered the historic address His Majesty King Husayn delivered last Wednesday evening. After the meeting, the committee sent a cable to His Majesty King Husayn supporting every word mentioned in the address, which will be added to the documents and history of the noble, blessed Hashemite family. The cable said: O Husayn, you will remain a carrier of the banner of right as well as the message of your forefathers who sought the hereafter and the testimony of history and generations. Renewing the pledge of allegiance to the sponsor of the march, the higher Arab Committee for Palestine in Jordan loudly says: O Husayn, proceed with God's blessings. May God protect you while your faithful people are praying for you and proceeding under your Hashemite leadership.

In its cable, the committee emphasized its adherence to the unity of the two banks, which should be a good nucleus for the unity of the Arab nation. The committee also emphasized its adherence to the decision of the people on both banks and to the Jordanian Constitution that unified the two banks of the Jordan, as well as its adherence to the Jordanian Parliament's decision preserving the Palestinian people's national rights.

The committee expressed its profound thanks and great gratitude to His Majesty King Husayn for the sincere efforts he has exerted and for his persistent endeavors in the service of Palestine—land, people, and sanctities.

Fatah Movement Shows Suppport

JN221507 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1408 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] This afternoon, His Majesty King Husayn met at the Royal Hashemite Court with officers, NCO's, and fighters of Al-Karamah Camp, which belongs to the Fatah movement in Jordan.

Dr Lieutenant Colonel Jibril Shalash delivered a speech in the name of these forces. He said: We support what was mentioned in your comprehensive pan-Arab address about the unity of the two peoples, as well as your efforts to save the land and kinfolk from the claws of the Zionist occupation. He said: We heard of the persistent action mentioned in your royal address taken for the sake of liberating the land and kinfolk, as well as the great and honorable efforts you exerted for this noble objective, to which our people inside and outside the occupied homeland aspire. Permit us, your majesty, to stress the following facts:

First, the unity of the two banks and that of the Palestinian and Jordanian people are historical, fateful, and sacred unities. We support every step aimed at regaining our people's legitimate national rights.

Second, we declare our support for and adherence to the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement that embodies the bases of the historic relationship between both peoples. We appeal to you, your majesty, to keep this agreement a groundwork which governs our relations.

He expressed Al-Karamah Forces' appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn and their pride in his efforts to reach the joint objective in the interest of both fraternal peoples.

Husayn Responds to Government Support Statements

Addresses House

JN221658 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Report on King Husayn's reply to 22 February statement by House of Representatives]

[Text] I thank you and deeply appreciate the results of the dialogue held by the brothers and representatives of the people, today. I sensed the burden of responsibility, and it was my duty to reveal the facts to all members of the one big Palestinian-Jordanian family and of the one march because these facts affect every one of us here, in the occupied land, and elsewhere.

His majesty also affirmed: We will not try to be an alternative to our Palestinian brothers. We will not stand in the way they select. We will continue to support them because we have a common destiny and goal. We pray to God that, as a result of the dialogue that will certainly continue in the Arab, Jordanian, and Palestinian arenas, we can crystallize a position that will enable us to save the kinfolk, the land, and the sanctities.

Addresses Senate

JN231937 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Report on King Husayn's reply to 23 February statement by the Senate; delivered in the Royal Hashemite Court —read by announcer]

[Text] I would like to express my thanks and deep appreciation to the brothers of the long march. The esteemed Senate's comment on what has taken place dots the I's regarding all developments and all of what we as Palestinians and Jordanians, along with the entire Arab nation, are confronting in terms of responsibilities under these circumstances.

I hope this paves the way for a constructive dialogue on the Jordanian and Palestinian levels to confront fateful challenges and dangers that are well known to everyone. I also hope that, as a result of this, a stand will be finalized in which we can respond to the challenge to perform our duty in order to save our kinfolk, the land, and the Holy Places. This is our destiny and our road.

AL-RA'Y on Interpretations of Husayn Speech

JN220926 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Feb 86 pp 1, 28

[Editorial: "Assertion of the pan-Arab Strategy"]

[Text] While His Majesty King Husayn's speech is being thoroughly studied in world capitals and while the speech is receiving a positive understanding and real interest in Arab circles as a frank speech addressed to the nation to allow the Palestinian and Arab rostrums to examine the course and intricacies of the most recent political move by Jordan and the PLO, Western news agencies and U.S. circles portray the Jordanian decision to suspend political coordination with the PLO leadership as an estrangement between the two sides and an Arab difference that has thrown the ball into our court. Israel also, as usual, directed poisonous arrows at Jordan when it claimed that the Jordanian decision will help clear the atmosphere and reinforce the Israeli stand.

The fact is that all these explanations are based on a shortsighted view or on bad intentions. The Jordanian decision cannot be read separately from the speech, but rather must be read as an integral part of it. A fair reading of the speech, which asserts the common destiny of the Jordanians and Palestinians, reinforces the conviction that suspending political coordination with the PLO does not at all mean a Jordanian-Palestinian estrangement or an Arab difference that has thrown the ball back to the Arab court. The ball remains in the Israeli court as a result of Israel's insistence on not recognizing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. Consequently, the frankness that was presented in the speech to the Jordanians, Palestinians, and Arabs cannot be described as an announcement of alienation or as an admission that the ball is in our court. In fact, the speech is a pan-Arab call to all to understand the Jordanian view of the Palestinian issue and to look for the features of the road they want to follow.

The Israeli claim that the Jordanian decision will help clear the atmosphere is aimed at harming the frankness that appeared in the speech and at showing that the decision reinforces the Israeli rejection of the PLO. These two aims are false and result from the hostile Israeli policy. The atmosphere is still clouded with the Israeli threats aimed at usurping the Palestinian territory and at removing the Palestinian people from it as well as at maintaining the state of no peace-no war in the region. The Israeli behavior and objectives have always made the atmosphere gloomy.

The Jordanian decision does not put an end to Jordan's condemnation of the intransigent Israeli stand. The suspension of political coordination between Jordan and the PLO does not mean agreeing upon the aggressive Israeli stand. The decision is an Arab affair to give the rest of the Arab parties an opportunity to study the details and intricacies of the political move which has not borne any fruit and to crystallize a clear view of the future.

The sides and circles that try to explain the comprehensive national speech in which King Husayn was frank to the Arab nation cannot cast doubt on the pan-Arab commitment Jordan adheres to —the commitment which bypasses the slogans to action. This commitment cannot be encroached upon by shortsighted or tendentious explanations, particularly since Jordan has asserted more than once that it will not enter unilateral negotiations with Israel.

King Husayn's speech is a reiteration of Jordan's commitment to the pan-Arab strategy which Jordan believes in. The speech is a bright example of democratic frankness between the leader and the nation. The aggressors and biased individuals cannot succeed in denigrating the Jordanian decision.

AL-DUSTUR Interviews Visiting PDRY Minister

JN210954 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Feb 86 pp 24, 21

[By Hamdan al-Haj]

[Excerpts] Amman — PDRY Justice and Awqaf Minister 'Abd al-Wasi' Ahmad Sallam has described his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn yesterday as positive and very fruitful. He said: We sensed a great understanding by his majesty of the PDRY situation. His majesty expressed his grave pain at what took place there and stressed the Kingdom's eagerness to promote and bolster relations between the two fraternal countries as this comes within the framework of the Kingdom's policy which is eager to cooperate with the entire Arab world.

Asked about the threats made by the previous president, Sallam said: If he has forces with which he can make threats and carry out his conspiracy, then why has he not yet carried it out and why did he not stand fast in the fight? He added that Arab leaders are now being put in the picture of what really happened in the PDRY.

Asked about 'Ali Nasir's future, Sallam said that he is wanted by the legal authorities and that the competent authorities are preparing a special file on the crimes which he and his supporters committed so they may be brought to justice.

Asked about PDRY policy under the new regime, Sallam said that the foreign policy remains unchanged because it was drawn up in party documents and implemented by the government and, therefore, it will not change. This policy is based on peaceful co-existence, which means establishing balanced relations with all regimes no matter how different they are. He added: We are eager to stress this to Arab brethren and our delegations are explaining this stand and stressing our eagerness for Arab solidarity. Sallam appealed to the Arab world to understand the PDRY's difficult situation and to extend aid to the PDRY.

Regarding damage resulting from the events, Sallam said it was great in the economic and social fields and that great damage was also done to buildings and to part of the Armed Forces, adding that among those who fell were the elite of the PDRY party and government.

Al-Jumayyil Returns From Trip to Europe, Morocco

NC221738 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil returned to Beirut at 1530 today following his visit to Paris, the Vatican, and Morocco.

Suslikov Meets Al-Jumayyil, Voices Soviet Support

NC241023 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] Yuriy Suslikov, Soviet charge d'affaires in Lebanon, met with President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil today and briefed him on the Soviet answer to the proposals that the president presented on 10 February. Suslikov reiterated Soviet support for Lebanon and its people regarding southern Lebanon and the Israeli attacks on it.

Junblatt on Kidnappings, Security Measures in Beirut

NC221638 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] All aspects of current developments in Lebanon and the ways to confront events in the next stage were discussed during a national conference held in the house of Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt at noon today. Nabih Birri, Munir Abu Fadil, Marwan Hamadah, George Hawi, 'Asim Qansuh, 'Abdallah Sa'adah, 'Umar Harb, Samir Sabbagh, Munir al-Sayyad, Akram Shuhayyib, Shakir al-Barjawi, 'Adnan 'Aytani, Haytham Jum'ah, and 'Aql Hamiyyah also attended the session. A delegation from the National Palestinian Salvation Front, which included Salah Salah, Abu Khalid al-Shamal, Abu 'Ali Mahdi Busaysu, and 'Ali 'Aziz, participated in the conference as well.

Following the conclusion of the meeting at 1520, Walid Junblatt said: In light of the hostile activities perpetrated by the Israelis and the Phalangists, it was necessary for the effective national and nationalist forces to meet in order to propose ideas on how to confront them, whether they take place in the south or anywhere else. These forces are anxious that this meeting lead to practical steps in Beirut, where certain armed elements have indiscriminately reopened some offices. There are daily complaints by citizens. Muslim, Christian, and Jewish citizens are being kidnapped. This is not only a moral disgrace, it is also a violation of the rights of all our honorable people.

Walid Junblatt added: We met as Lebanese and Palestinian national forces. We intend to meet regularly in order to deal with mutual issues and to formulate a clear idea of what present and future Palestinian-Lebanese relations should be. Responding to a question, Walid Junblatt stated: The results of this meeting must be translated into executive measures, whether these be taken at the level of the special party force or the legitimate strike force. The latter should be revived if it has begun to fade under present circumstances and given a role to play.

When asked how he would deal with those organizations not participating in the Coordination Committee, Junblatt replied: We want to deal with all organizations and to draw them into our ranks politically and militarily. If there are some organizations that do not wish to participate, then we will undertake a dialogue with them. It is impossible that a number of national projects should exist which are contradictory and in conflict while adhering to the same slogans.

Replying to a question on what he had to say about the situation in the south, Junblatt said: If we do not succeed in Beirut, then the south will definitely fall.

Junblatt Leaves for CPSU Congress

NC240658 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], has departed for Moscow to attend the 27th congress of the CPSU. Junblatt is scheduled to meet with a number of Soviet leaders to discuss the latest developments in the region in general, and those in Lebanon in particular. Akram Shuhayyib, member of the PSP political bureau, is accompanying Junblatt on his visit.

Junblatt held a series of meetings in Damascus yesterday. He met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and discussed the formation of a nationalist leadership coordinated with the Palestine National Salvation Front. The latest domestic developments were also considered during the meeting.

Lebanese, Palestinian Groups Discuss Relations

GF231112 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] The newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* quotes a leading Lebanese source as saying that the Lebanese-Palestinian Coordination Committee, which was proclaimed yesterday, will begin meetings early next week to establish the basis and organization of the new political leadership which has been formed. The source added that committees will be established in this regard to handle work in the political, military, social, economic, and information fields in order to consolidate national Lebanese-Palestinian action, to enhance its basis, and to outline the image of the move during the next stage according to the political concept to be followed. All have affirmed that this policy will adhere to the national line. The sources said that the organization of political steps to enhance relations among the powers in western Beirut will consolidate the national struggle in southern Lebanon.

AL-ITTIHAD adds that during the meeting between the Lebanese National Unity Front and the Palestinian Salvation Front, the need to enhance the unity of Lebanese-Palestinian relations was expressed in order to confront developments in the upcoming stage and the dangers facing both the Lebanese and Palestinian forces. Quoting sources at the meeting, the newspaper adds that the participants of the meeting agreed to intensify their efforts, especially during this stage when the south is facing new Israeli aggression.

Nasirite Organization Official Assassinated

NC240935 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0915 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] Gunmen assassinated 'Isam al-'Arab [secretary general of the Nasirite Organization in Lebanon-Nasir Forces] in the Tariq al-Jadidah area at 1030 today. Civil defense teams have taken his body to the Al-Barbir Hospital.

Car Bomb Kills 5, Wounds 12; Second Bomb Defused

NC240859 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0847 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] We have just received the following report from our newsdesk: We have been informed that the booby-trapped car that exploded was a blue Honda. Five people have been killed and 12 others wounded as a result of the blast. According to a security source, sappers were able to defuse a second explosive charge. We would like to inform you that students at the Lebanese Academy for Fine Arts are all safe.

Further Details

NC241046 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1015 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Five people were killed and several others wounded when a booby-trapped car, which had been parked at the Al-Salumi circle by criminal hands, exploded. Chief Warrant Officer Yusuf Bitar, a military expert on bombs, has revealed that the explosive charge weighed 50 kg. However, only 30 kg actually exploded. The remaining 20 kg have been defused. M-46 Soviet mines, each weighing 6.5 kg, have also been defused, he added. The charge was connected to mortar shells, he explained, but sappers were able to defuse them. According to an eyewitness, a 20-year-old man parked the car and then left in a hurry.

Two Israeli Soldiers Reportedly Moved From South

NC211526 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Excerpt] The Islamic Resistance Front in Beirut has announced that it has transferred the two kidnapped Israeli soldiers to a secure place outside southern Lebanon.

Photos of Israelis Published

HK220552 Hong Kong AFP in English
0517 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Beirut, Feb 22 (AFP) — The weekly newspaper of the pro-Iranian Hizballah (God's party) published a photo here Friday of the two Israeli soldiers captured last Monday with details about their capture. The two prisoners were shown receiving blood transfusions on cots with white sheets. The caption said: "The two Israeli prisoners before the execution of one of them."

The Islamic Resistance movement announced Wednesday night that one of the hostages was killed after the expiration of the movement's ultimatum for Israeli troops to withdraw from the southern Lebanese villages they have been searching since Monday in a hunt for the two captives. There has been no proof yet that the hostage was actually killed.

An article by one of the commandos who captured the pair said preparations for the attack included a 35-day suveillance of Israeli movements in the zone just north of the Israeli border. "We fired a rocket at the first car in the three-car convoy" and then fired automatic weapons, wrote the commando member, who used the signature "jihad" (holy war). The first car's driver begged to be spared, shouting that he was a Shia Moslem.

Islamic Group, Security Police Compete for Control

NC211600 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1515 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Our correspondent in Sidon has reported that security police and members of the Muslim Brotherhood, led by Shaykh Salah al-Din Arqahdan, are on the verge of a confrontation as the result of their competition to control the Islamic area. The Islamic Group is demanding the right to open new offices in order to participate with security police in operations to gain control. Our correspondent adds that a clash erupted today between the two sides, during which one person was wounded.

The Islamic Group is taking advantage of Israeli combing operations in the south to strengthen its positions in towns and cities there under the pretext of resisting the occupation.

Iranian Envoy Inspects Southern Villages

NC211858 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] (Mahmud Nourani), the Iranian carge d'affairs in Beirut, has inspected several frontline villages in the Al-Nabatiyah and Tyre areas. He said: We have come to convey to you the greetings of your brothers, the mujahidin, in Iran. The Iranian mujahidin are not only fighting against the Iraqi regime but against international arrogance as well. They are fighting in defense of Islam, and they send you their regards. (Nourani) affirmed that the conflicts in Iran and southern Lebanon are between the forces of good and evil.

Further Reportage on Israeli Military Action in South

Israelis Dismantling Headquarters

NC211444 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] According to the latest reports from the south, Israeli forces are dismantling their command headquarters in Burj Qallawiyah-al-Ghanduriyah. The Lahd militias are also withdrawing a total of 25 vehicles from the same position. Enemy helicopters have combed Kafr Dunin, Al-Shihabiyah, and Bi'r al-Salasil. Tanks were observed moving from Dayr Kifa to Bi'r al-Salasil at 1445. Enemy helicopters flew over Kafra, Yatir, and Haris at 1500.

Occupation 'Scaled Down'

NC212041 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] According to the latest reports from the south, the Israeli operation there is being scaled down. Several Israeli vehicles carrying a large number of soldiers who had entered the liberated areas 5 days ago were seen withdrawing into the occupied land. A decrease in the intensity of Israeli practices in the south has also been observed. Reports indicate that Major General Gholani, who was behind the implementation of an ironfisted policy in seven villages last year, has returned to the occupied land. The Israeli Forces have also withdrawn from Shaqrah to the town's outskirts. A portion of these forces has moved back into the occupied land.

Withdrawal Reported

NC221739 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Enemy vehicles this afternoon assembled near Qa'Qa'iyat al-Jisr Bridge, then withdrew toward Tallat al-Shumariyah. Near Frun, other vehicles also assembled and withdrew in the direction of Al-Qantarah. Several Buses, believed to be carrying the civilian prisoners from villages, were seen.

According to security reports from the south, the Israeli Army forces were spotted this afternoon evacuating the invaded area along four routes: Toward the villages of Haris, Sribbin, and Bayt Lif; toward Qa'Qa'iyat al-Jisr, Al-Ghanduriyah, Frun, and the border; toward the villages of Tibnin and Bayt Yahun; and toward Bi'r al-Salasil, Shaqra, and Bra'shit. The occupation forces reportedly have withdrawn from Frun and Qallawiyah.

According to a report received at 1800 today, Yatar is coming under fire from Merkava tanks. Helicopters are firing Milan missiles at the village and its suburbs.

Further Reports on Fighting in South

Lahd, Amal Clashes

NC221049 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1000 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Our correspondent in the south reports that the villages of Jba', 'Ayn Biswar, and Jarju' have been coming under heavy mortar and machinegun fire from positions held by agent Lahd's militiamen in Jabal Safi since 1030 today. The enemy employed Merkava tanks in a later 2-hour bombardment of Yatar. In the meantime, Israeli helicopters have searched the area.

Violent fighting in which various types of rockets and other weapons were used broke out this morning between Israeli enemy forces and Amal members in Kafr Rumman.

An Amal unit on patrol near some occupation forces positions in Kafr Rumman was ambushed at 0245 today. A 15-minute clash ensued, resulting in casualties among those who had sprung the trap. One Amal member was wounded and taken to a hospital.

At 0615, a squad from the National Resistance fired four rockets at posts held by agent Lahd's forces. The first rocket struck a position belonging to agent Lahd in 'Ayn Ibil, while the second fell in Al-Quzah. The other two rockets landed on the Qiryat Shemona settlement in the occupied Arab territories.

Birri Says Commander Killed

NC221612 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction affairs and leader of the Amal Movement, has announced to the Lebanese people and the Islamic nation the martyrdom of Zuhayr Shahadah, the commander of the faithful resistance in the south. Minister Birri said:

[Begin recording] On behalf of myself and the Amal Movement, I announce to our great people the martyrdom of Zuhayr Shahadah, the commander of the faithful resistance and a devoted member of the Amal Movement, and his two martyr brothers Muhammad al-Dirani and Ibrahim Farhat. They died in defense of the dignity of the nation, the honor of the homeland, and the glory of the south while directing and executing operations in Dayr Nar against the invaders and occupiers. Peace be upon you. [end recording]

Amal Attacks Lahd Position

NC221919 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] At 1720 today, a group of the Lebanese Resistance Battalions-AMAL [Arabic acronym for afwaj muqawamah lubnaniyah, which translates as Lebanese Resistance Battalions] attacked an agent Lahd position on Kafra hill, using rockets and automatic weapons. Amal scored a direct hit on the position, knocking out a 12.7-mm machinegun emplacement and a Centurion tank, which caught fire. The number of Lahd casualties could not be determined because of the heavy machinegun fire in the wake of this operation. At 1745 today, a Merkava tank shelled the surrounding area.

Lahd Roadblock Attacked

NC231438 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Excerpt] The Islamic Resistance has carried out another operation against a roadblock held by agent Lahd's militiamen near the town of (Al-Sarirah) in the Western Al-Biqa'. All the soldiers were either killed or wounded. Enemy tanks stationed on the (Al-Ahmadiyah) Hills then shelled the area near the Dallafah Bridge. The Israeli enemy forces also bombarded Mashgharah Mountain from positions in Al-Rayhan, and their fire reached the outskirts of 'Ayn al-Tinah.

Resistance Launches Operations

NC231603 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] National Resistance fighters today carried out a series of operations inside the border strip. They fired on the Marj 'Uyun barracks and used rockets against Metulla. The Al-Malak al-Tahir group claimed responsibility for shelling an occupation forces' position on the Iskandarunah-al-Bayyadah road in the Al-Naqurah area.

Israeli enemy aircraft flew over Sidon and other southern areas today. Enemy vessels continued to blockade the Ports of Sidon and Tyre. The enemy gunboats preventing ships from entering or leaving Sidon Port are in Lebanese territorial waters.

Resistance Hits Israeli Patrol

NC231921 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] In the south, the Martyr Khalil Ibrahim group of the faithful National Resistance attacked an enemy patrol on the Bra'shit-Bayt Yahun road at 0530 today, using automatic weapons and rockets. Two enemy vehicles were destroyed and a number of Israeli soldiers were killed or wounded in this attack. The group returned safely to base.

Further on Amal, Hizballah, Communist Clashes

Amal Cited in Communist's Death

NC220852 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Informed sources in the Communist Party have told the Voice of Lebanon that the party's security forces have uncovered some details concerning the assassination of Khalil Na'us, the official responsible for the West Beirut branch of the Lebanese Communist Party. These sources have announced that the assassin was a man named 'Azzam, a follower of Abu Khadir Majid, who takes orders from Qabalan Qabalan, the chief of Amal's security service in West Beirut. He was riding on a motorbike with 'Ali Farhat.

These sources also said that 'Ali Jazzini and Abu Jamal supervised the training of those involved and the execution of the operation. They were working with another group that facilitated the assassin's escape aboard a motorbike at the Abu Haydar intersection.

Communists Deny Amal Involved

NC221321 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] An informed source in the Lebanese Communist Party has denied what the Phalangist media have described as details regarding the criminal assassination of Khalil Na'us, a member of the Communist Party Central Committee. The media claimed to have obtained these details from informed sources in the Communist Party. The responsible official stated that the report broadcast by the Phalangist Voice of Lebanon radio on the identity of Khalil Na'us' assassin is completely false. This story is one more example of the tendentious rumors customarily broadcast by that radio. We wish to make it clear that no one inside the Communist Party has contacted that station.

Amal, Communists Clash

NC231928 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Since 2030 tonight, clashes between the Amal Movement and the Communist Party have been raging in many West Beirut areas, particularly in Al-Musaytibah, Burj al-Barajinah, Barbur, Corniche al-Mazra'ah, the Cola Circle, and the vicinity of the Soviet Embassy. Rockets and machineguns are being used in the fighting. The Communist Party had earlier asked the Amal Movement to release 15 Communist Party members who are still being held in the south.

Hizballah, Communists Clash

NC232113 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Hizballah and the communists continue to clash with the Amal Movement in the Corniche al-Mazra'ah area. The fighting began when a Land Rover carrying Hizballah and communist personnel was ambushed in Corniche al-Mazra'ah. Two people were killed and three others were wounded.

Hizballah and Amal have also joined forces against the communists in Burj Abu Haydar, 'A'ishah Bakkar, the vicinity of the Iranian Embassy, and on Cola Bridge. The clashes involve heavy- and medium-caliber weapons. Military concentrations have been sighted near the Beirut hospital.

Junblatt's party has put its members in West Beirut on alert, with the understanding that they will intervene only after receiving direct orders from their command in the mountain. However, we were informed a few moments ago that Junblatt's forces have joined Hizballah in the battles in West Beirut.

Violent clashes, using rockets, artillery, and machineguns, have been continuing between Kafr Shima and Al-Shuwayfat. Shells have been falling sporadically on the outskirts of Al-Hadath and B'abda.

Acute tension prevails in Burj al-Barajinah camp, where clashes have taken place between Amal and the Palestinians. These clashes caused the internal security personnel to withdraw from the area.

1 Killed in Attack

HK240024 Hong Kong AFP in English 0010 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] Beirut, Feb 24 (AFP) — A Shia Muslim fundamentalist was killed and three others wounded Sunday night in fierce clashes with members of the Lebanese Communist Party (LCP) in West Beirut. Meanwhile heavy artillery duels were reported Sunday evening on the Christian-Muslim demarcation line in the southern suburbs. Police said two ceasefires set up by the four-party security committee made up of the army that Druze, Christian and Shiite militias had failed to hold.

According to the Hizballah (Party of God), its four fundamentalist militants were shot when their car came under fire as the drove past a communist office in the Bourj Abi Haidar district near the Iranian Embassy. The incident blew up into in artillery duel in which auoomatic weapons and anti-tank rockets came into play. Police said the Iranian chancellery had been hit by several rockets.

Efforts to arrange a ceasefire were being undertaken by the multi-faction West Beirut corrdination committee and a "combined force" of Druze-Shiite militiamen aided by Syrian observers was deployed in the Abi Haidar area.

Hizballah Abducts Communist

NC240744 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0715 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] According to Communist Party sources, Hizballah gunmen tried to kidnap Suhayl Tawilah, Communist Party Central Committee member and editor-in-chief of the newspaper *AL-TARIQ*, at 2230 last night. Tawilah lives in a building adjacent to the Iranian Embassy. However, residents in the area aborted the abduction attempt. Nevertheless, Hizballah gunmen made a second attempt to kidnap Tawilah at 2300. This time they successfully abducted him at gunpoint, and left for an unknown destination.

Hizballah Raids Communist Homes

NC241409 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1145 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] According to reports we have received, Hizballah members cut the road leading from the Iranian Embassy circle to Corniche al-Mazra'ah at approximately 1200 today. Communist gunmen had earlier fired at this embassy after kidnapping some Hizballah members.

Hizballah supporters have also raided homes belonging to Communists in the Riyad al-Sulh and Al-'Azariyah areas. They set up roadblocks to check the identity of pedestrians. Other Hizballah members have arrested some Communists who were inside a car parked under the Al-Barbir bridge.

It has been reported that the Socialist Progressive Party has ordered its members in the striking force to protect Communist Party centers and to repel any attempt made to enter the communist center near the Al-Sharq movie theater. Hizballah members had tried to raid this center this morning. According to security sources, Hizballah supporters raided the Communist Party center on 'Umar Ibn al-Khattab Street in the Ra's al-Nab' area and then set it on fire. Other Hizballah groups raided houses belonging to Communists in this area and destroyed their contents.

Extreme tension prevailed in the Al-Barbir and Al-Bastah areas this morning. Hizballah gunmen have appeared in large numbers in these places.

Intermittent clashes resumed between Hizballah and Communist gunmen in the Burj Abu Haydar area at approximately 0700 this morning. Security sources reported chases and raids by both sides in this area. A large number of people were observed to be leaving.

Kidnapped Communist's Body Found

NC241420 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] It has transpired that a body discovered in the Normandy area this morning is that of Suhayl Tawilah, editor-in-chief of the newspaper *Al-TARIQ* and Communist Party Central Committee member. The 45-year-old Tawilah had been kidnapped from his home at 2300 last night.

Fighting Reported in Al-Matn, Beirut, Mountain

NC221307 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1145 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] There has been intermittent fighting since noon today along the Al-'Ayrun-al-Dawwar-Tallat Tamraj combat line. The clashes occurred after the Lebanese Army frustrated an attempted infiltration by gunmen from the Syrian Social Nationalist Party the Progressive Socialist Party. The attackers suffered a number of casualties.

The security situation in the capital and its southern suburb has been tense and has included occasional fighting along the Commercial Markets, port, Sodeco, and Primo combat lines in the capital and on the Al-Tayyunah and Dar al-Kitab lines in the suburb. The warring parties employed automatic weapons and rockets, and the fire reached neighborhoods in the eastern areas close to the contact lines.

Army posts in Suq al-Gharb, Tallat al-Prins, and al-Khazzanat on the mountain were subjected to heavy sniper fire from positions facing them held by Junblatt's gunmen. Shortly after noon today, intermittent fighting was reported along the Bsaba-al-ma'rufiyah combat line. Fire from Junblatt's snipers have hindered efforts to repair electrical equipment. Meanwhile, the Al-Masalih-Qaqas crossing point remains closed to traffic. Efforts to reopen it were made at noon today after gunmen withdrew from the Kanj and ('Amil) buildings.

Upper Al-Matn 'Calm'

NC231500 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1445 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Calm now prevails on the upper Al-Matn combat lines, following a flare-up during which gunmen from the Syrian Social Nationalist Party and their allies directed artillery fire at villages in the area.

Al-Asad Telephones Jordan's King Husayn

JN211822 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1815 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad held a telephone conversation with King Husayn ibn Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, yesterday evening. The conversation dealt with relations between the two fraternal countries and the latest developments in the situation in the region.

Al-Asad, Al-Shar‘ Receive Iranian Official

JN221751 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Mohammad ‘Ali Besharati, assistant foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the accompanying delegation at 1830 today.

This morning Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar‘ received Mohammad ‘Ali Besharati, who is currently visiting Syria. Iranian Charge d'Affaires Mahmud Hashemi attended the meeting. Talks revolved around the current situation in the region.

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives in Damascus 21 Feb

JN211743 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa‘ud al-Faysal arrived in Damascus this evening. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Faruq al-Shar‘, the foreign minister; Hunayn Hatim, director of the Arab Homeland Department at the Foreign Ministry; the assistant director of protocol; Shaykh Ahmad al-Kuhaymi, Saudi Arabia's ambassador in Damascus; and the embassy staff.

Delivers Message, Leaves

JN221806 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] At 1130 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa‘ud al-Faysal, who conveyed to him a message from King Fahd. Talsk revolved around developments in the region.

Prince Sa‘ud al-Faysal left Damascus this evening. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar‘ saw him off at Damascus International Airport. The prince made a statement in which he said: I had the honor to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad. He pointed out that his visit to Syria was within the framework of completing previous talks asserting that the talks will continue.

Iranian Envoy Holds News Conference in Damascus

JN231255 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Iranian Assistant Foreign Minister Mohammad ‘Ali Besharati held a news conference at the Iranian Embassy in Damascus to explain the Iranian position on the current Iraq-Iran war. Last night, Besharati met with President Hafiz al-Asad for 2 hours. Earlier, Al-Asad received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa‘ud al-Faysal.

Besharati said that Iraq is still occupying 1,700 square kilometers of Iranian territory. He criticized the Security Council because it issued its first resolution on a cease-fire after 5 and 1/2 years without exercising its right to condemn the aggressor. He added that the Iranian forces crossed the Shatt al-‘Arab and occupied the strategic Al-Faw harbor. He said the Iranian operations are continuing on two axes. Besharati claimed that Iraq has so far lost 75 planes and 16,000 dead. He said Iran's losses exceed $150 million.

Besharati asserted that the battle is only between Iraq and Iran and that it will continue until the regime of president Saddam Husayn is toppled. He said that this is a final decision. Besharati said Iran has 150 divisions ready for combat on all fronts.

As for Iran's relations with the rest of the Gulf states, they are good. Iran, he added, wants only good neighborliness.

On his talks with President al-Asad, he said that Syria's stance toward Iran has not changed, neither in the past nor in the present, and that Saudi Arabia is endeavoring to end the state of war but Iran's reply has been an insistence on toppling the Baghdad regime. He said everyone hopes that the area of operations will not expand, Iran's answer is that Iran will ensure that this area will not expand.

On Kuwait's stand, he sid that Kuwait supported Iraq in the war but we will forget the past. Iran will not punsih anyone and the continuation of the war should not frighten Kuwait. He warned against Iraq using Kuwaiti territory and airspace to hit Iran.

Concluding, he said that Iran extends its hand of friendship to all its friends in the Gulf.

Before leaving Damascus for Baghdad last night, Sa‘ud al-Faysal told our radio that his meeting with President al-Asad was good, that what he heard and felt from the Syrian leader pleased him as concerns Syria's stand in support of basic Arab causes.

Shamir Interviewed on IDF Searches, Domestic Issues

TA220927 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer; place and date not given — recorded]

[Text][**Schiffer**] Mr Vice Prime Minister, what do we know about the fate of the two kidnapped IDF soldiers at this point?
[**Shamir**] The IDF is continuing its searches for them in southern Lebanon, and will continue to do so as long as their fate is unknown and they are not in our hands, and as long as there is a chance to reach them.

[**Schiffer**] From reports arriving from the field, it transpires that this is not only a search for the soldiers, but also a complicated military operation for weapons searches. How long will this process continue?
[**Shamir**] I said that as long as there is a chance to find our two soldiers, the IDF will continue to search. Naturally, this search necessitates the recruitment and activation of large forces, and this is what we are doing.

[**Schiffer**] Is there no danger that the local population, as a result of the searches, will eventually turn against Israel and as a result the northern border will be harmed?
[**Shamir**] Obviously, the IDF took risks, but our duty is to defend Israel's security, the security of the northern border, and this is what the IDF is doing. All the residents and elements in these areas must realize that if the IDF is hit and if Israel's security is compromised, then they will have to pay the price and shoulder the responsibility, and whoever has done so will not go unpunished.

[**Schiffer**] Another factor in this area is UNIFIL. How would you define relations between the IDF and UNIFIL? Do you support a continued UNIFIL presence in the area? Do you think it is a stabilizing or a negative factor?
[**Shamir**] We have known for a long time that UNIFIL can fulfill no positive role in this area, not because they do not want to, but because of objective conditions. From Israel's point of view UNIFIL does not fulfill any positive role.

[**Schiffer**] Do you express this position in contacts with the United States?
[**Shamir**] Certainly. The U.S. Government, those who head the United Nations, and all the countries who contribute soldiers to UNIFIL, know what Israel's position is and the Foreign Ministry's representatives, myself included, bring this to their attention.

[**Schiffer**] And this opinion is not acceptable to them?
[**Shamir**] There are still elements who are interested in the existence of UNIFIL. There were countries which removed their soldiers from UNIFIL, and other countries are still hesitating about whether to do so. The top echelons of the United Nations obviously want this force to continue.

[**Schiffer**] Mr Shamir, with your permission let us move on to domestic issues. Yesterday the prime minister convened ministers from the Alignment and the Likud to discuss economic growth. How do you regard this issue? What did you discuss?
[**Shamir**] I think there is something very artificial in all the noise made over this issue in the last few days, because the issue of growth is not a disputed principle. In the government's basic guidelines it is stated — actually this is stated in the economic plan guidelines — that following the stage of curbing inflation there will be a stage of economic growth. The only question is how to implement the growth stage, how much, when to do it, and what are the priorities. There are no substantial differences between the Likud and the Alignment on the actual need for economic growth. We must deal with this matter practically, we must decide on procedures, and we must decide what issues must be dealt with immediately and what issues can be deferred. I do not regard this as a reason for some kind of a crisis, or for deep differences of opinion between the Likud and the Alignment.

[**Schiffer**] You mentioned the artificiality of the talks about economic growth. What, then, do you believe is the basis for this debate?
[**Shamir**] It is very possible that following the initial success of the economic plan, there are those who are afraid that the upcoming period will be more comfortable economically, and possibly they are afraid that this success will be attributed to the Likud. There are also real problems which cannot be included in the framework of growth. There are factories and institutions in Israel which have run into financial difficulties, which is only a natural outcome of the various fluctuations. Inflation and then the curbing of inflation are sharp fluctuations, and not every factory and institution can face them, and there is a need.... [changes thought] There are pressures on the Alignment to help these factories, and the Likud does not say in principle that we should not aid them. Every case and issue must be examined — whether from the national and economic points of view these institutions or factories should be aided, or whether they are beyond help. I do not see any principles involved here; we should search for solutions together, taking into account our capabilities and our economic limitations, which are still very serious, because we have still not reached safe shores. I am convinced that with a sincere desire for cooperation, and with dedicated efforts to solve the problems, we can find solutions without conflicts and crises.

[**Schiffer**] In the last few days the prime minister has claimed that the 7 years in which the Likud was in power were years in which everything was destroyed: agriculture, the economy. What do you say to this claim, especially in light of the fact that the national unity government indeed had to combat galloping inflation?
[**Shamir**] I do not believe that every second day we should bring up the lists of mistakes made by every political camp in Israel. We also have much to say about the mistakes and distortions of the Alignment when it was in power. We also have much to say about those institutions that come under Alignment elements which now face incredible economic difficulties.

[**Schiffer**] Are you referring to Solel Boneh [Histadrut Construction Company]?
[**Shamir**] Among others, and this also must be explained....
[**Schiffer**, interrupting] What is the problem here?

[Shamir] What I want to say is that if one side wants to show that the other side cannot manage its affairs properly, that it cannot manage the country's economic affairs, then much can also be said regarding the Alignment camp. However, I do not think that so long as the national unity government is operating with the cooperation of the two sides, we should search for excuses to blame each other. I have a great deal to say about the economic and national performance of the Likud governments during their 7 years in power. I think we did a lot for the country and its objectives, for the well-being of the population, and for improving the lot of many sectors in the public. There is much to say. It is true that everything has a price, but the fact is that today, after a very short period, we have freed ourselves from inflation almost completely and can again face the tasks of growth and buildup, of helping the people and building the nation.

[Schiffer] Will you support the new suggestion to establish an economic cabinet to deal with issues of growth and to be headed by the prime minister?
[Shamir] I have not heard of such a proposal. There are various proposals. We must remember, however, that when the national unity government was established we had to create a balance of power between the two main constituents of the government, the Likud and the Alignment. This balance was achieved by a division of jobs within the government and by the basic guidelines, which determined the agreed upon policy both in the political and the economic spheres. By the way, in the economic sphere we had no difficulties, because the discussions at the time proved that there are no substantial differences between us. As for implementing policy, this was arranged by giving each party its ministries, in which they now operate. It is inconceivable to change this balance of power now that the situation has changed for the better. Obviously, it is possible to demand or propose certain changes, but these must be agreed upon by the two sides.

[Schiffer] Mr Shamir, I understand that there was an understanding between you and the prime minister this week concerning reaction to the speech by Husayn, who this week said he is halting political coordination with 'Arafat. What do you think is the next stage in the peace process in the region? What should Israel do now that King Husayn has declared he is ending political ties with 'Arafat?
[Shamir] I was not surprised by this revelation that the PLO is not a factor that can contribute anything to peace, but is, on the contrary, an obstacle to peace. Whoever thought otherwise has seen his error. I find it difficult to understand why the Jordanian king is holding on to the PLO when he knows that peace and the PLO are diametrically opposed.

[Schiffer] What do you believe in? Do you believe it is possible to form a Palestinian leadership in the territories with whom we could talk?
[Shamir] It is desirable to reach a situation in which the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el disassociate themselves as much as possible from the PLO. I do not know whether we can reach peace through negotiations with them or their representatives. In order to reach peace we must reach negotiations — and conclude them positively — with the Arab states, because war is between countries.

[Schiffer] However, the struggle is with the Palestinians, because they are the ones maintaining the daily struggle against Israel?
[Shamir] You are referring to terrorism?
[Schiffer] Yes.
[Shamir] Terrorism is not perpetrated by the Palestinian public. It is the product of several groups and organizations, and these groups could continue to exist even with the opposition of the great majority of Eretz Yisra'el Arabs. I am not speaking about terrorism. When we talk of peace negotiations, we are referring to peace in order to prevent wars, because in order to prevent wars you must make peace between states. Therefore Israel's foreign policy is constantly directed toward direct peace negotiations with the Arab states. Just as we have negotiated with Egypt, we want to negotiate with Jordan and other Arab states. This is our objective.

[Schiffer] Mr Shamir, were you surprised by the excerpts of Husayn's speech in which he revealed that he had reached an agreement [sikumin] with the United States regarding the possibility of the PLO participating in the peace process in the framework of an international conference?
[Shamir] These excerpts are a particular cause for concern, a great cause for concern, and we are making attempts to clarify this matter with the U.S. authorities to see if this is indeed the case. I view this as a dangerous step that could be dangerous for the future as well — at present nothing has come of it — and I view this as further proof of the inherent dangers in that institution we have already warned about, an international conference.

[Schiffer] Maybe it only proves that over the years the United States has not accepted Israel's position regarding the PLO, and that it does view the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinians, if it will change its position.
[Shamir] From the U.S. commitments made since 1975, from what we have heard from them since that time, and during the last few days, the United States says that if the PLO does not accept its conditions, there can be no peace negotiations with it. It is certainly inconceivable to bring the PLO to an international conference without Israel's agreement. This is contrary to all commitments. And if something has happened here that must be regarded as a deviation from this line and from these U.S. commitments, then we should issue a warning about it and regard it as something dangerous which must not recur.

Rabin, Levi Tour S. Lebanon

TA221615 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Chief of Staff Moshe Levi, and senior officers today toured southern Lebanon and the Galilee, and heard reports on the latest developments. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that afterwards, Minister Rabin met with the IDF commander and other senior officers to discuss the continuation of the operation in southern Lebanon. All day today the IDF forces in southern Lebanon were reduced. During the 5 days of searches, the IDF forces combed dozens of villages, questioned approximately 3,000 people, and detained for more questioning several dozen suspects, mainly members of the Hizballah organization. Large amounts of arms and ammunition were found. Yesterday, IDF forces blew up several houses belonging to members of Hizballah.

Rabin Reports on IDF Operations

TA231204 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1107 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] The Cabinet heard a report on the IDF operation in Lebanon at its meeting today. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal that the escalation in katyusha firing is undoubtedly linked to the IDF search operation in southern Lebanon. Mr Rabin said that most of the clashes over the last few days involved Amal people, and only a few of them involved Hizballah personnel. We would never have gone beyond the boundaries of the security strip just to search for weapons, the defense minister said. Now we will continue to search for the missing soldiers through various groups. Our correspondent asked the defense minister why the searches were halted:

[Begin recording] [Rabin] The decision was made in accordance with only one criterion and consideration: to make a swift and supreme effort to search for the soldiers. Yesterday we held a joint debate, and everyone agreed — and certainly I thought — that we had exhausted all feasible possibilities to discover the soldiers' footsteps in the area we had cordoned off. We also had to take into account other ramifications of our presence in the area.

[Tal] Until yesterday it was declared that the IDF would continue to search for the soldiers until it finds them or their exact whereabouts. Do we know what has become of them?
[Rabin] First of all, the decision and the instruction was to search as long as there was any likelihood that by closing off areas, imposing a virtual curfew on villages, house-to-house searches, and searches in the fields between the villages, it would be possible to find them. It is true that right now there is no certainty as to where they are, but insofar as the method of searching is concerned, it was by and large exhausted.

[Tal] So what happens now? How will the search operations continue, if at all?
[Rabin] The central problem is obtaining information on the soldiers' whereabouts. In this regard we have no firm information on where they are. We will continue to collect information by various ways, through all sorts of elements, and if we have conclusive evidence, we will then decide what to do. I would like to mention that the general policy should first of all be to provide security for our northern settlements and our northern border. The method by which we operate, and which has proved itself over the past 8 months, involves the combination of two elements: the deployment of the IDF along the international border, maintaining the security strip, and preserving freedom of action. We had a prior agreed that as long as fighting by elements hostile to us is confined to the security strip, we will not go beyond certain means. The red line, from our point of view, is the peace and security of the Galilee. The job of the army and those IDF elements who are connected to the army of southern Lebanon and who are present in the area, is to provide that sense of security. In that respect, a conflict has arisen between the overall goal of security for the Galilee, and the moral need and value cherished by the IDF to carry out a search for its soldiers. Knowing that this involves a certain risk for the safety of the Galilee, we did what was called for and what our responsibility for the soldiers demanded. I cannot recall in the annals of the IDF any search of such a wide scope for kidnapped soldiers, who were missing in an area not under our control.

[Tal] What changes have taken place in the area? There have been some over the past few days, and we have noted something that might resemble what ie used to call an uprising by the local Shi'ite population. Could you notice any shift toward greater extremism?
[Rabin] I would say that at this stage there is the danger of radicalization. I do not believe we have noticed immediate effects, but the next few days will tell. I would say that the population certainly did not love the IDF's takeover and searches of 15-20 villages, including such a large town as Tibnin; but I think they understood and today it is clear to them that we did not come to entrench ourselves there again. Segments of the population will take advantage of this to win greater support and influence among the Shi'ites. Amal also operated against us. I believe that a large number of the katyushas directed at Israel were fired by Amal. Amal did not accept our presence quietly and the main clashes were with Amal; only a few of them were with Hizballah. I therefore believe that although we were obligated to carry out this extended and thorough search on such an unprecedented scale, the population still understands that it is better to let live, on both sides of the border.

[Tal] Perhaps you could say something about the aftereffects, the outcome of the searches. We found a lot of weapons and ammunition in the area. What does this indicate? And perhaps you could also say one word about UNIFIL's role in fighting terrorism?

[Rabin] I would say the following: We would not have entered the area merely to search for weapons. We only did that in light of an event as serious as the kidnapping of the soldiers. The result was: There is an unlimited quantity of weapons in Lebanon, and all the elements active in Lebanon have no problem acquiring arms from the Arab countries and various organizations which have the money to purchase them and have no problem transferring them from Syria and all sorts of other places. So this was not the goal. [end recording]

General Levi Interviewed on Searches

TA211930 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Interview with Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi, by Moshe Shlonsky on 21 February; place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Shlonsky] Is there anything new in the searches the IDF is conducting for our soldiers in Lebanon?
[Levi] To my regret, I do not have any positive news. We still have not found our soldiers. The most prominent change we made today was when we removed our force from a large portion of the sector in which the searches were conducted, including the village of Tibnin and all that area, as a result of the developments in the searches themselves.

[Shlonsky] Does that mean that in your opinion in those areas which you evacuated there is no chance or only a small chance of finding the soldiers?

[Levi] That is correct for now. Since reports are rife, I must say that we did not enter the area in order to capture territory. We entered in order to search for the two soldiers. Today's findings showed that we could reduce the area in which we were active, and this was our decision today. Different reports could alter this decision.

[Shlonsky] IDF sources have said we will stay in Lebanon until we know the fate of our two soldiers. What if this takes 1 or 2 months, or even more?
[Levi] There is something here which must be understood. Our sole objective at the moment is to find the two soldiers. I think this is justified, both in factual, military terms, and in terms of the moral duty and the values on which the IDF is based — fighters' comradeship. If we think or believe there is a chance, and when we have the data and the means to fulfill what emerges from this chance, it would be inconceivable not to take advantage of this opportunity. I would not place this within a timetable, and I would not pose the question as to how long the IDF will be in Lebanon. This question is irrelevant in this case. When we have in our possession any facts, material, a chance, even the slightest, we will do everything in our power to bring the soldiers home.

[Shlonsky] From your answer, can be it understood that there is no timetable, that we will remain there for as long as it takes?
[Levi] There is no timetable, but I also do not think there is any point in declaring that we are staying, in terms of fulfilling the task. I am aware that this could be damaging in that it could create a hostile atmosphere with the residents in this region. We have been aware of this since the beginning of the search. Both by means of our soldiers and through messages and explanations to the local residents, we have made a point of explaining why we are where we are, and that we have no intention of harming or disrupting the lives of others.

[Shlonsky] During the past 24 hours, there is a feeling that the terrorists have increased their activity in the region, whether it be Amal or other movements. Do you feel that this situation might deteriorate?
[Levi] We did maintain such a belief. I mentioned already that you can come with a certain intention, and others can misunderstand your intention, and still others can take advantage of this intention in order to create tension. As you said, this was evidenced, relatively speaking, in clashes in the territory. If we remember that we are talking about a large, populated area in which everyone has weapons and bombs, then it can be said that there have been very few incidents. There have been shooting incidents in the past 24 hours, some of which also spread into our territory. The awareness of the possibility of increased hostility is one of our considerations in our operation.

[Shlonsky] In the wake of the kidnapping, do you think that the IDF's deployment in the security zone should be changed?
[Levi] In my opinion, no. First, we did not talk about the attack itself. We consider this attack very serious, and we will not allow it to go unanswered. However, as far as the affect this incident has on our total deployment, I do not think that there is any reason or need to change this at the moment. This deployment has proven itself beyond our expectations in the extremely volatile conditions existing in Lebanon and in southern Lebanon. We have to examine how to correct the situation, not to change it.

Further Reportage on Search for Kidnapped Soldiers

IDF Returns to Security Strip

TA221713 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] The IDF forces have left the area in which they were searching for the two kidnapped IDF soldiers, and have returned to the security strip. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal was told that the searches would continue in other ways and through other means.

Our correspondent reports that the decision to remove the forces from the area was made by the defense minister and the chief of staff during a discussion they held today, in which the deputy chief of staff, the commander of the Northern Command, and other senior officers also participated. They reached the conclusion that all means for finding the soldiers had been exhausted. During the day the IDF forces were reduced, and the exit from the region was completed by nightfall.

Lubrani on IDF Pullout

TA230621 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, has told our political correspondent Shmu'el Tal that the IDF pulled out of southern Lebanon because there was no chance of finding the kidnapped soldiers. He claims that the Shi'ite population in southern Lebanon had begun to doubt whether the IDF would leave the area, and hostile elements had increased pressure on that population to take action against the IDF.

Uri Lubrani believes that following the departure of the forces, the balance in the area will be restored and calm will prevail. However, our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that hundreds of youths belonging to Hizballah have arrived in Tyre and Al-Nabatiyah over the past few days, and that an office to recruit suicide squads has been set up in the center of Tyre. The Iranian representative in Lebanon visited the southern part of the country over the weekend and declared that his country would support Hizballah's war against Israel. Our correspondent notes that one of the Amal commanders in the south has said that because of the IDF searches, his organization has lost most of its achievements of the past 12 months.

IDF Deploys in Security Strip

TA231825 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] The Israeli army has redeployed in its former positions in the security zone in south Lebanon, following the search for two soldiers kidnapped last Monday.

Voice of Israel's military reporter says additional forces are also present in the security zone, to ensure a quick response to any new information on the whereabouts of the two soldiers.

Peres Congratulates IDF

TA231042 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1024 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Public transportation prices will go up by 25 percent. This was decided by the Cabinet during its session this morning. The transportation minister, who opposed the hike, demanded that a decision on the matter be made by the Cabinet plenum, and it accepted the Treasury's demand. Thus public transportation prices will increase by 25 percent.

Further on the Cabinet session: Shim'on Peres congratulated the IDF for its search operation for the missing soldiers. He said that this operation, in which the IDF exhibited maximum control of the area, represents Israel's image of concern for the individual soldier and his well-being. The prime minister gave his congratulations to the northern settlements for their steadfast stand in recent days. The defense minister reviewed the IDF operation in Lebanon.

The Cabinet also decided to allot $1.5 billion [as heard] toward the implementation of the law on discharged soldiers, which provides for their education and vocational training, during the current fiscal year; and another $3.1 million in the next fiscal year. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that the prime minister prevented a discussion of central economic issues. The Likud and Alignment ministers will discuss partisan disputes in the economic sphere this evening.

Communique Gives Further Details

TA231245 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Cabinet communique read by Cabinet Secretary Yosi Beilin on 23 February — recorded]

[Text] At today's meeting of the Government, the prime minister sent greetings to the IDF on the search operations for the Israeli soldiers. He said that these operations, which displaying maximum control in the field, represent the image of Israel in its concern for the life and welfare of each and every soldier. The prime minister also sent greetings to the northern settlements on their firm stand during these days.

The minister of defense reviewed the course of the action. His remarks were given within the framework of the Ministerial Committee of Defense. The Government approved the appropriation of $1.5 million to finance the Veteran Soldiers Law, for purposes of education and job training during the current annual budget, and an additional $3.1 million for the next annual budget. The Government approved the increase in public transport fees.

Likud-Alignment Meeting Ends Without Agreement

TA211420 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] The meeting of the Alignment and Likud ministers has ended after 4 1/2 hours of discussions without the sides reaching an agreement on the disputed issues. Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz reports that regarding the matter of economic growth, the Alignment ministers demanded that a special inner cabinet be set up which would be headed by the prime minister and comprise two Alignment and two Likud ministers.

On emerging from the meeting, Minister Gad Ya'aqobi said that there were profound differences of opinion on this matter. Minister Moshe Shahal said that the government would not discuss economic issues until agreement is reached between the Alignment and the Likud on the resumption of economic growth. Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i said he would not agree to the prime minister heading a special inner cabinet to deal with the matter of growth because there is no way that this subject can be separated from the other economic issues. He stressed that there is no disagreement over the need for economic growth, but said that it must be implemented only in accordance with the budget.

Our correspondent reports that the discussion was in large part to the point, but sharp differences of opinion emerged between Ministers Sharon and Nehamkin when the agriculture minister claimed that the existing settlements should be strengthened before people are moved to Judaea and Samaria.

Peres Comments on Meeting

TA211730 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has said that several Alignment ministers lack confidence in one of the Likud ministers, and our correspondent Amnon Nadav says that although he did not mention the name, he was referring to Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i.

During the discussion this afternoon between the Alignment and Likud ministers, the prime minister said that he was not suggesting that money be printed, rather he was suggesting that a supportive fund be set up from the means the government has in its possession. He again harshly criticized the Likud governments which, according to him, harmed the economy and gave out benefits, such as high salaries, to directors in government companies, together with cars and drivers. Mr Peres called for an end to this practice. The finance minister has displayed willingness, but Minister David Levi said that the finance minister cannot agree on Levi's behalf.

During the discussion, the Likud ministers again claimed that the proposals by the prime minister and the Alignment ministers sabotage the economic program. In addition, they claimed that in recent days, the prime minister has gone back to acting as a party leader, and not as a prime minister. The Alignment ministers claimed that the Likud ministers were acting hypocritically, and presented excerpts from newspaper interviews in which Likud ministers had spoken out against the economic program.

Our correspondent notes that several ministers who participated in the meeting said the atmosphere during the discussion was not one of appeasement. The prime minister announced that the government would not deal with central economic issues until agreement between the Alignment and the Likud is reached.

Likud Ministers on Early Elections

TA230526 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Likud ministers last night checked with the religious parties on whether they would support the establishment of a narrow-based government led by the Alignment, or early elections. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav has learned that the religious parties announced that they would not support a narrow-based government and will continue to support the unity government. They also announced that they had not held talks with the Alignment on this matter.

The Alignment and Likud ministers will meet again this evening in an attempt to settle their dispute. Senior Alignment sources have said that those who wish the rotation to take place must make sure that the economy is not run by the Sharon-Moda'i axis.

Parties Differ on Economic Issues

TA231940 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Report by economic affairs correspondent Hayim Plattner, from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem — live]

[Text] The Likud and Alignment ministers are currently discussing Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' demand to establish a ministerial committee for economic growth issues. Prime Minister Peres is firm in his demand that he head the ministerial team which will handle the economic growth.

In a consultation the Alignment ministers held with the Likud ministers prior to the meeting it was made clear that the Alignment will not go back on its positions even if this exacerbates the crisis with its partner in the national unity government. Mr Peres believes that now that the economic program should focus on rehabilitating the economy and the attendant social aspects, it is he who should direct the effort. Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i is not acceptable to him as the person who can handle the social problems created by the economic program. Mr Peres' confidants also mention that immediately after his assuming his duties as prime minister, in September 1984, Peres set up the task force, the main mission of which is to deal with growth.

The Alignment's demand meets with a very firm objection by the Likud. The ministerial team which the prime minister wishes to lead may receive superpowers in the economic sphere. Thus, the team will be able to introduce changes in the budget, approve the issuance of bonds or shares, raise funds overseas, and handle various other issues which fall under the purview of the finance minister. If we add to this the Alignment's demand that the prime minister and vice prime minister take over the finance minister's right of appointing members to the boards of directors of government-owned companies, we will understand how badly the implementation of the Alignment's demands may affect Minister Moda'i and the Likud. The Likud says this will not only affect Minister Moda'i, but also notes the Alignment's desire to continue handling economic affairs even after the rotation, a point to which the Likud is opposed.

As was stated, the meeting is being conducted in an atmosphere of crisis now, but it seems that Prime Minister Peres will refrain from exacerbating matters tonight, and will put off the adoption of conclusions and decisions.

Meeting Ends Without Results

TA232108 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] A few minutes ago the meeting between Alignment and Likud ministers on the economic growth issue ended without any results. Minister David Levi said upon leaving the meeting that the Alignment presented the Likud with an ultimatum and that the Likud rejects this ultimatum outright. Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said the disputed problems could have been solved during the meeting. He added that this can still be done and that it is unnecessary to change the structure of the government and take powers away from the finance minister. Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz reports that no date has been set for another meeting and that the ministers dispersed without any agreement.

OAU Ministerial Council Meeting Previewed

AB231300 Dakar PANA in English 1511 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Addis Ababa, 21 Feb (PANA) — The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) will meet in Addis Ababa from 25 Feb-4 March to adopt the organisation's budget for the financial year 1986-87 and evolve common strategies to tackle various continental problems.

The budget proposed by the advisory committee on administrative, budgetary and financial matters amounts to 25.5 million U.S. dollars — representing about ten percent increase over the current budget of 23,254,236 dollars. This itself is a 8.1 percent decrease as compared to the 25,305,171 million dollars allocated for the 1984-85 financial year.

Despite repeated appeals to settle their arrears, outstanding contributions of member-states to the OAU's regular budget are still a matter of serious concern to the general secretariat, according to OAU sources.

Items on the draft agenda for the meeting, grouped under 12 main headings, cover wide-ranging subjects from economic and political matters to social, educational, scientific and cultural questions. Afro-Arab cooperation, information, juridical questions and subventions to pan-African organisations also figure prominently on the tentative agenda.

The path of searching for answers to the serious economic crisis in which Africa is engulfed and which is now compounded by drought and famine in many parts of the continent will be dealt with by OAU Secretary General Ide Oumarou in his report on preparations for the special United Nations General Assembly session in May. This subject will be specifically dealt with by an extraordinary OAU ministerial council meeting from 30-31 March, preceded by an emergency meeting of the ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) from 28-29 March.

Among the political matters will be the situation in southern Africa, a thorough analysis of which will be contained in the report of the 45th ordinary session of the Coordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa.

The OAU secretary general will report to the council on the implications of the abrogation of the Clark Amendment by the United States to the situation in southern Africa. The question of boycott of airlines flying to and from South Africa will also come up for discussion. Other political matters will be the Middle East, the question of Palestine, and refugees in Africa.

The report and resolutions of the first extraordinary session of the conference of ministers of information held in Cairo last November will also be presented to the council.

The ministers will discuss preparations for convening the first conference of African ministers of culture and probably come up with a date for the conference.

The OAU secretary general will submit proposals for revising the convention on preservation of nature and natural resources in Africa.

Senegal has proposed a cooperation accord to be entered into between the OAU and the intergovernmental bureau for information. Other items may be raised by member-states in writing or submitted to the council during discussion of the agenda.

OATUU Official Blames Ghana, Libya for Deadlock

AB201242 Paris AFP in French 0804 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Text] Dakar, 20 Feb (AFP) — Ghana and Libya are responsible for the problems currently facing the Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU), Hassan Adebayo Sunmonu (Nigeria), president of the Executive Committee of the OATUU elected earlier this month by the group of 28 countries which broke away from the organization, said Wednesday night.

"The Ghanaian Government wanted to maintain at all costs the outgoing former secretary general, James Dennis Akumu (Kenya), at the head of the organization, under pressure from Libya, by using antidemocratic methods and intimidation during the recent extraordinary congress of Accra," he said at a news conference in Dakar.

The fact that Libya has been allocating $100,000 annually to the functionaries of the OATUU since it assumed the presidency in 1976, made Mr Akumu look down with scorn on member-African trade unions which, on their part, were not paying up their annual contributions, Mr Sunmonu added. The new team, he said, will ask the help of member-trade unions in getting the OATUU out of Libyan grips and work for its redynamization.

The new Executive Committee of the OATUU will be temporarily based in Dakar while waiting for Cameroon to give its accord to establish the new executive secretariat in Yaounde, Mr Sunmonu stated, adding that this executive committee will immediately be installed in Accra if the Ghanaian Government gives it the guarantee that it could work there in tranquility.

It should be recalled that this Executive Committee was elected during the extraordinary congress of the OATUU held from 6 to 8 February in Accra (seat of the organization) by a group of 28 countries which demanded the departure of Mr Akumu, whom they accused of mismanagement and embezzlement during his 13 years as the executive secretary of the OATUU.

On their part, the 13 countries, which refused to follow this group, appointed another executive committee which remains under the leadership of Ali El-Nefishy (Libya) and James Dennis Akumu.

Lesotho To Continue Giving Apartheid Victims Refuge

LD211951 Dakar PANA in English 1728 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Addis Ababa, 21 Feb (PANA) — The new Government of Lesotho has reassured the OAU of its commitment to continue to give refuge to victims of apartheid "provided they abide by their obligation to respect conditions of asylum". The assurance was conveyed in Addis Ababa to OAU Secretary General Ide Oumarou by a high-powered delegation from King Moshoeshoe II, while delivering a message from the king, according to an OAU press release issued today.

The release said the delegation, which was led by Mr Vincent Moeketse Malebo, minister of information and broadcasting, included Colonel Blyth Ramohlanka Ntsohi, minister of labour and manpower, and Mr Berene Sekhomyana, high commissioner to Kenya and permanent representative to OAU, and briefed the OAU secretary general on the recent change of government in Lesotho resulting from a military take-over on 20 January. The delegation informed the secretary general that, contrary to allegations in the mass media, the change of government had not been brought about by South Africa and was entirely a result of internal problems in the country. "In the special message from the king, the secretary general was informed that the removal from power of the previous government was both imperative and urgent in order to restore peace and to reconcile the Basotho nation which had become increasingly polarised with illegal [words indistinct] firearms, resulting in violence, armed robberies and increasing crime and murder", the release continued.

"The delegation informed the secretary general that the new government had declared its strong commitment to abide by all international obligations and other treaties to which Lesotho is signatory. Lesotho remained fully committed to its traditional obligation of giving refuge and hospitality to all who find themselves victims of political persecution in South Africa and elsewhere. Lesotho also will continue to abide by the principle of non-alignment and will resist any attempt by any big power to reduce the country to a subservient status".

According to the release, "the secretary general expressed his appreciation for the message sent by King Moshoeshoe and assured the delegation that the OAU considered Lesotho as a vanguard of the liberation struggle (?against) [words indistinct] and would continue to give it all the necessary support to safeguard its independence and its territorial integrity in its struggle against apartheid".

ALGERIA

Messaadia Meets Bendjedid, Departs for CPSU Congress

LD230034 Algiers APS in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Algiers, 22 Feb (APS) — In the presidency office today Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN Party, received Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the FLN Politburo and official in charge of the Permanent Secretariat, before his departure for Moscow leading a party delegation to the 27th CPSU Congress.

Chadian Official Arrives With Habre Message

LD211727 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Chadian Foreign Affairs Minister [title as heard] Karom Ahmed arrived in Algeria today as President Hissein Habre's special envoy. He was welcomed at Houari Boumedienne International Airport by the head of the Foreign Ministry Africa Section and the caretaker of Chadian affairs in Algeria. In a statement at the airport, Karom Ahmed affirmed that he is carrying a message from Hissein Habre to FLN Secretary General and President Chadli Bendjedid.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi on Relations With Chad, U.S., Europe

NC231926 Athens KIRIAKATIKI ELEVTHEROTIPIA in Greek 23 Feb 86 pp 6, 7

["Exclusive" interview with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by Martha Vretakou and Eleni Kokhaimidhou at Al-Qadhdhafi's tent in Tripoli on 17 February]

[Text] **[Question]** To date you have not commented on developments in neighboring Chad. What does this silence mean? How do you judge France's attitude toward Chad?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Recent events in Chad concern only the Chadian people. This country, made up of various tribes and ethnic communities, is the scene of a civil war — a battle between two conflicting parties. It began 25 years ago and it could continue for another 25. Libya's position is that there should be no foreign intervention in this country's internal affairs.

[Question] Yet there is one....

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Yes, because Chad is centrally located in Africa, the United States is working with France to take over [katalipsis] the country and establish a U.S. base, which would allow the United States to control the whole African Continent. Mitterrand's forces have bombed a civilian airport, the only one in the northern part of Chad. Foodstuffs and medicine were supplied to the country through this airport — a civilian and not a military one. Mitterrand has violated the terms of the agreement signed in Crete. Despite all this, we will not intervene. We want a peaceful solution and an end to the bloodshed.

[Question] Do you have a definite plan to end the problems in Chad?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] My proposal is that the people of Chad should be free to decide on their own future, without intervention.

[Question] Will you meet with President Mitterrand to discuss Chad?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] There are continuous contacts, but the African Union must furnish the solution.

[Question] Libya, too, seems to be seriously threatened by the United States, which holds your country responsible for a series of terrorist actions. What are the real reasons for this long held U.S. attitude?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Libya has been trying to unite all the Arabs and Arab countries into a strong power to work against the common enemy. The United States is scared and dislikes this. Thus, it reacts as you described.

[Question] The recent mission by Whitehead, the U.S. deputy secretary of state, does not appear to have produced the expected results. How do you view the obvious dissension between the Americans and the West Europeans?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The interests of West European countries differ completely from those of the United States. It was to be expected, therefore, that they could not agree. The United States, in its efforts to further itself, does not respect other countries' interests. It is concerned only about the defense of Western Europe and NATO. This is why it has placed missiles in Western Europe and has filled the Mediterranean with fleets and nuclear arms.

[Question] Despite all this, the West believes that you are adopting a friendly attitude toward the terrorists. In your opinion, how was this impression created, and how could you alleviate it?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We support the Palestinians' struggle for their country's liberation from the conquerors. The United States believes that this support is a type of terrorism.... If that is the case, our revolution, as well as everything we do, are terrorist actions.

[Question] In the West there is great confusion, as well as ignorance, on the social development in your country and on its position in the world. Can you tell us how you see contemporary Libya?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We are trying to elevate the Libyan people's standard of living. Before the revolution, the Libyan people were living at subsistence level in huts and tents. All our efforts aim to raise our people's standard of living as high as possible.

[Question] What is Libya's role at present in the Arab world, which is characterized by unprecedented policies and serious disputes?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Our efforts aim to unite all the Arab states. This is not easily accomplished, as the approximately 20 Arab states have different political views and interests. As for now, these efforts are impossible.

[Question] Would you like to talk about the stand of the Mediterranean countries, such as Greece and Italy, toward Libya?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Greece is a friendly country with a socialist government that has maintained and continues to maintain that the Mediterranean should be free of nuclear weapons. We are in complete agreement with this stand. Our relations with Italy are also good. The only dispute is the compensation we demand for the crimes and damage of the Italian occupation. Our efforts aim to persuade these countries to get rid of the U.S. bases because, in the event of a nuclear war, they will de destroyed, along with the other Mediterranean countries.

[Question] In Greece, there are differing views on whether the U.S. bases should be removed. What will be Libya's stance toward Greece if the U.S. bases remain?
[Al-Qadhdhafi] This is an issue that primarily concerns Greek defense, and is a secondary issue for other countries. It is up to the Greek people to decide what is in their interest.

[Question] You recently said that Libya's isolation from the West would lead your country toward the Soviet Union. The Green Book proposes the third path, between the socialist and capitalist models. According to this, should not Libya keep equal distance, at least ideologically, from the two superpowers?
[Al-Qadhdhafi] According to the country's ruling system and the Green Book, Libyan policy gives absolute authority to the people. Our ideology is a new one that will change all the world into a world of jamahiriyahs (that is, of people's rule), without governments, ministries, parliamentary deputies, police, armies, or violence. The people's congresses will make decisions, which the people's committees will implement. Our jamahiriyahs are based on the ancient Greeks system, that is, the people rule without a government or parties.

[Question] How do you view Libya's future? The price of oil is constantly dropping and the country's oil reserves will be exhausted in the next 20 years. Thus Libya could be poorer and forced to make changes in its foreign policy. What would happen to the export of the Libyan "third path" model — Arab socialism? And what about the slogan "Partners, not salaried workers"?
[Al-Qadhdhafi] Libya has great prospects for development and adequate oil deposits. The oil issue, however, will not affect our economy directly, once we have developed an industry which offsets the reduction of the oil price. However, I believe that the Iran-Iraq war will cause a drop in the production of oil and a corresponding increase in price. Libya, whose oil deposits can last for over 100 years, does not intend to reduce the price of oil; on the contrary, Libya will attempt to increase the price by reducing production. This would cause an increase in demand and a corresponding increase in price, despite the pressure on Libya from the other oil-producing states. The Third World theory is not at all related to oil.

[Question] What is your position on the fall of the dictatorship in Haiti and on the presidential elections in the Philippines?
[Al-Qadhdhafi] Naturally, we have been very satisfied with the fall of dictatorship in Haiti. However, the government which has assumed power is not a people's government. The revolution should continue until a completely democratic government is established. In the Philippines, an illegal government has been confirmed by fraudulent elections. Of course, this has been the result of activities by the United States, which considers the Philippines an area of great importance and does not want to lose it.

[Question] You do not hold any office in your country. You are not president of the Republic, the prime minister, nor president of the parliament. Yet you are the center of Libyan political life. how do you view yourself?
[Al-Qadhdhafi] I am the chief of the revolution and that is all.

[Question] The last question is whether anything frightens Al-Qadhdhafi?
[Al-Qadhdhafi] I am beyond fear. I am no longer frightened by anything. (laughs)

USSR Official 'Deplores' French Intervention in Chad

LD230016 Tripoli JANA in English 1801 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Moscow, Jumada Athani 11, Feb, 22, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The deputy director of the Soviet Institute for American and Canadian Affairs yesterday deplored French military intervention in Chad. He said the the French military intervention in Chad violated international rules and conventions. Meanwhile, *IZVESTIYA* newspaper asserted that France and the United States planned jointly military intervention in the internal affairs of the Chadian people.

Chadians in Benghazi Protest French Actions

LD231842 Tripoli JANA in English 1740 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Benghazi Jumada Athani 12, Feb 23 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Chadians in Benghazi demonstrated this morning in protest against French military intervention in Chad and the French jets bombing of Ouadi Doum civilian airport. Demonstrators carried Chadian flag and green banner expressing Chadian people's anger and condemnation of mutinous Habre and French military occupation aimed at flaring up hated and turning up Chadians against each other.

The demonstrators issued a statement in which they draw the attention of international organisations, and OAU and human rights movements to the plight of the Chadian people. The Chadians condemned the ruling gangs in Ndjamena and French flagrant military intervention. They saluted the Transitional Government of National Unity headed by Goukouni Oueddei and its courageous stand in countering colonial intervention. The demonstrators reaffirmed their commitment to armed struggle against imperialist governments such as France and America, and their interference in African affairs. They lauded the unlimited assistance being given by the Great Al-Fatih Revolution towards Chadian struggle for freedom and independence.

Nigerian Foreign Minister Arrives 21 Feb

LD221049 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0915 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Feb (JANA) — Nigerian Foreign Minister Bolaji Akinyemi and his accompanying delegation arrived yesterday evening on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Becomes Ill, Hospitalized

AB231949 Paris AFP in English 1906 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, Feb 23 (AFP) — Nigerian Foreign Minister Bolaji Akinyemi was taken to hospital here before completing a mission to Libya aimed at obtaining peace in the Chadian civil war, members of his delegation said here today. They said he was still under medical observation but his condition had improved.

Mr Akinyemi arrived here Friday night from Paris and saw Libyan diplomats and members of the "People's Committee" dealing with the Chadian problem before being taken ill, but was unable to see Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Before leaving Paris, where he saw French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, Mr Akinyemi said the Nigerian government could no longer tolerate the fighting in neighboring Chad between the Ndjamena government, supported by France, and the rival Transitional Government of National Union backed by Libya.

A member of his delegation said Mr Akinyemi might return to Tripoli later or be visited by a Libyan delegation in Lagos. It was not certain whether he would return to Nigeria after his release from hospital or go on to an Organisation of African Unity ministerial conference in Addis Ababa.

The delegation source refused to give details of Mr Akinyemi's talks with the Libyans.

Radu-Led RCP Delegation Arrives 23 Feb

LD241002 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Feb (JANA) — Constantin Radu, member of the Romanian Communist Party [RCP] Secretariat and his accompanying delegation, arrived yesterday evening in Tripoli on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Constantin Radu, in a statement to a JANA correspondent, said that Romania stands by the side of the Libyan people in its resistance against U.S. imperialist threats. He said that his visit is aimed at strengthening the friendly relations between the Jamahiriyah and Romania, relations whose pillars were set up by the brother leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu.

USSR Youth Delegation Meets With Education Group

LD231234 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1055 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, 23, Feb (JANA) — The General Educational People's Congress for Universities yesterday morning in Tripoli held a meeting with the Soviet youth delegation, which is currently visiting the Jamahiriyah. The ways to develop the relations of friendship and cooperation between the students council of the Soviet Union and the students in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah were discussed at the meeting.

The Soviet youth delegation had arrived in Tripoli the day before yesterday on a visit to the Jamahiriyah at the invitation of the General Educational People's Congress for Universities.

Algerian Delegation Arrives 23 Feb for Oil Talks

LD231951 Tripoli JANA in English 1744 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Athani 12, Feb. 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Abdallah, vice president of the Algerian national people's assembly, and Mostefa Benamar, Algerian minister of commerce, arrived this morning in Tripoli on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to JANA correspondent, they saluted the firm and courageous stand of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution asserting that their visit to Jamahiriyah came within the framework of consolidation of fraternal ties between the two brotherly peoples especially in the wake of the meeting which took place between the leader of the revolution and President Chadli Bendjedid.

On OPEC and oil prices the Algerian minister of commerce said that contacts which were conducted between Jamahiriyah, Algeria and Iran, besides the meeting which takes place tomorrow between Algeria, Libya, Nigeria and Gabon, are devoted to find ways to counter the crisis aimed at impairing our political and economic stances.

SUDAN

Chadian Envoy Says Libya Increasing Troops in North

AB240813 Paris AFP in English 0738 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 24 (AFP) — Libya has doubled its troops in northern Chad from 5,000 to 10,000 men, a Chadian envoy seeking Sudanese mediation said here Sunday, the SUDAN NEWS AGENCY reported. The situation was relatively calm following a recent flare-up, "but we expect a Libyan attack any time," the envoy from President Hissein Habre told Sudanese leader General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab. The envoy stressed that mediation would fail if it did not succeed in tackling the "real problem" which, he said, concerned Libya and Chad and not the legitimate government in Ndjamena and its Chadian opponents.

Military Council Discusses Security Situation

GF221837 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1725 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Feb (SUNA) — The Transitional Military Council [TMC] has reviewed the security situation in the country in light of current events in northern Chad which resulted in the influx of refugees in the western part of the country. At a regular meeting today, chaired by Lieutenant General Siwar al-Dhahab, the council expressed its regret at the raging clashes in neighboring Chad and stressed that the warring brothers should be committed to the principle of dialogue to resolve their internal problems. The council also recommended that necessary measures be taken to control the influx of refugees through the western borders.

The council heard a routine report on security indicating that situation is stable in various parts of the country. The council also heard a report by Lieutenant General Taj al-Din, deputy chairman of the TMC and deputy commander in chief of the

People's Armed Forces, on his visit to fraternal Kuwait and his talks with senior Kuwaiti officials.

TMC Deputy Chairman To Visit Saudi Arabia in March

EA231930 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text) Transitional Military Council Deputy Chairman Lieutenant General Taj al-Din 'Abdallah Fadl will visit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in March within the framework of strengthening and developing bilateral relations. Moreover, his excellency has declared in a press statement that his recent visit to the State of Kuwait was positive in that officials there expressed full readiness to help Sudan solve its problems. They also expressed their readiness to supply Sudan with petroleum products for a year to help it prepare for the coming agricultural season. His excellency praised the continuing activity being undertaken by the State of Kuwait with Arab funds to fulfill its bilateral commitments to Sudan in the absence of IMF cooperation. He excellency said his meeting with the Sudanese community had been successful, noting their effusive enthusiasm for effective participation in building the Sudanese economy.

Prime Minister Cautions Against Violence

JN210958 Khartoum SUNA in English 0922 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 21, (SUNA) — Premier Al-Jazuli Daf'allah yesterday cautioned against the violence phenomenon recently witnessed in the country which would undermine the democratic life. Addressing a meeting of some leaders of political parties and organizations, Al-Jazuli urged all political forces to shoulder their responsibility in safeguarding the democratic process.

The political leaders stressed the inportance of revising the performance of national papers and mass media to ensure their neutrality and objectivity. They also urged the government to bridge differences in view points particularly towards general issues and called for creating a new security equation in coping with the new liberal life.

Goverment To Barter Food for Libyan Oil

NC221809 Paris AFP in English 1454 GMT 22 Feb 86

[By Marie Jioannidis]

[Excerpt] Tripoli, Feb 21 (AFP) [date as received] — Libya and Sudan have agreed to a major deal involving Sudanese agricultural produce in part-exchange for Libyan oil, a visiting Sudanese minister has said here. Energy Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Uthman Musa told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the deal, by which Libya will supply 100,000 tonnes of oil per year to Sudan, was "a trade deal, and not a political agreement." That part of the oil import bill not paid for in kind would be settled by a financial arrangement involving the remittances of Sudanese immigrant workers in Libya, he said, adding that he expected the numbers of such workers to increase from the present level of 30,000.

Relations between the two countries, which share a short border, have warmed since last April, when Sudan's strongly anti-Libyan president, Ja'far Numayri, was overthrown in a coup. The Libyan oil supply will replace imports from Saudi Arabia, which was one of Sudan's main backers under President Numayri.

In part-exchange, Sudan will supply Libya with meat, oilseeds and animal skins, Mr. Musa said, adding that the reference oil price still had to be worked out. He said the remainder of the oil bill would be paid from a fund set up in Libya for the remittances of Sudanese workers there. The worker's remittances would then be paid by the Sudanese Government in Sudan in local currency, avoiding foreign currency dealings, he added. "We are hoping there will be other exchanges of visits (between Libya and Sudan) in coming months, and we hope that the remittances of Sudanese nationals, as well as the food products, will cover the oil costs," he said.

Suit Against Arab Bank Filed

NC221946 Paris AFP in English 1531 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 22 (AFP) — Sudan's military government has filed a suit in a French court against an international Arab merchant bank alleged to have covered up oil-related fraud which cost the country around 75 million dollars between 1979 and 1985, according to the daily newspaper *AL-SAHAFAH*.

Advocate Salim Isa, the chairman of a committee investigating the alleged fraud, was quoting as saying that the case involved former President Ja'far Numayri, Saudi Arabian multimillionaire Adnan Khashoggi, Sudanese businessman Khadr al-Sharif, former Energy Minister Sharif al-Tuhami, and four other people. President Numayri was overthrown by the current military regime in April last year.

Mr Isa said the lawsuit, for which a French examining magistrate has already been appointed, was being brought against the Baii — which diplomatic sources here identified as the international Arab investment bank, a subsidiary of the Luxembourg-based international credit and commerce bank. French and British lawyers are acting on behalf of the Sudanese Government, Mr Isa said. He told the paper that inquiries by his committee in Paris had shown that the bank had undertaken all financial procedures related to Sudan's oil purchases under the Numayri regime. It had kept private accounts for senior officials of the regime, including the president himself, as well as for foreign businessmen who were involved in the case as oil agents, Mr Isa said.

TUNISIA

Prime Minister Receives PDRY Justice Minister

LD212222 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] This evening Mr Mohamed Mzali, prime minister and minister of the interior, received at the palace of the government at Al-Qasbah Mr 'Abd al-Wasi' Ahmad Sallam, special envoy of President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas to President Habib

Bourguiba and minister of justice in the PDRY. The Yemeni special envoy stated that he conveyed to Mr Mohamed Mzali, prime minister and minister of the interior, a written message from Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council in the PDRY and member of the YSP Politburo, to his brother His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba.

Destoutian Socialist Party To Attend CPSU Congress

LD211903 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Tunis, 21 Feb (KUNA) — The Tunisian ruling Destourian Socialist Party has reportedly decided to accept an official invitation to attend the 27th CPSU Congress. President Habib Bourguiba has charged the director of his ruling party, Hedi Baccouche, to lead the Tunisian Party delegation to the congress.

The Tunisian party's attendance at the CPSU congress -- the first ever -- reflects the extent of the recent rapprochement in relations between the Soviet Union and Tunisia. The two countries recently formed a higher joint commission to develop economic, scientific, technical and trade cooperation. This commission held its first meeting here last Wednesday, under the cochairmanship of Yevgeniy Osadchuk, deputy chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and Ahmed Ben Arfa, Tunisian secretary of state for foreign affairs in charge of international cooperation.

In an exclusive statement to KUNA, an authorized Tunisian source expressed the hope that the volume of trade exchanges would double between the two countries in the current year: The volume of these exchanges in 1985 amounted to approximately $10 million.

The source further said that the Soviet side in the higher joint commission had voiced the willingness of his government to buy quantities of Tunisian phosphate, currently undergoing a slump on foreign markets due to international competition.

He added that the Tunisian and Soviet sides had also agreed to develop cooperation in the industrial domain, particularly in the spheres of phosphate processing and glass manufacturing.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Leaves for CPSU Congress in Moscow

EA241029 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Excerpt] WPE Central Committee secretary general, Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] chairman and commander in chief of the revolutionary armed forces, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, left for Moscow today to attend the 27th CPSU Congress, which is due to open tomorrow.

The comrade secretary general was seen off from Bole International Airport by WPE Central Committee Politburo member and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, Comrade Fikre-Selassie Wogderes, and WPE Central Committee Politburo member and secretary, Comrade Fiseha Desta. Also present were WPE Central Committee Politburo members and alternate members, WPE Central Committee members, ministers and Soviet Embassy staff in revolutionary Ethiopia.

UGANDA

NRA Captures Karuma Falls Bridge 20 Feb

AB211531 Paris AFP in English 1506 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Kampala, Feb 21 (AFP) — Troops of the new Ugandan Government have captured the Karuma Falls Bridge, the most important strategic point on the road to the northern town of Gulu, where forces loyal to the ousted military regime are believed to have regrouped, the Defence Ministry said today.

A ministry statement said the bridge, about 270 km (170 miles) norhtwest of here on the highway to Gulu, was captured yesterday at 6 p.m. local time by the 163rd Brigade of the National Resistance Army (NRA) after "heavy fighting."

The taking of the bridge leaves Gulu as the last important military objective for those NRA forces advancing north by the western route.

The Karuma Falls Bridge in only 77 kms (48 miles) from the town of Gulu, around which the army commander under the deposed military regime, Lieutenant-General Bazilio Olara Okello, is believe to have marshalled forces loyal to the former leadership.

The statement, which made no mention of casualties, also said the Township of Dokolo, near the northern town of Lira, had been captured by NRA troops advancing north on an eastern route.

The NRA has been advancing steadily northwards since it took control of Kampala at the end of last month and set up a new government under its leader Yoweri Museveni, now president and defence minister.

The statement, appealed to soldiers still fighting against the NRA with what it called "the criminal alliance" of Lt-Gen Bazilio Olara Okello and the defence minister of the ousted regime, Brigadier Wilson Toko, to surrender and rally to the government.

It said those who surrendered would be well treated, like the estimated 10,000 soldiers who had already laid down arms.

Okello Reported Holding Many Bantus Hostage

EA211127 Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 21 Feb 86 pp 1,32

[Report by *DAILY NATION* correspondent Chris Musyoka]

[Excerpt] According to *NATION* staffer, Chris Musyoka, reporting from Kampala, Lt-Gen Okello is holding a big number of Bantu people as hostages. Reports reaching Kampala said that Lt-Gen Okello, now in Kitgu, has arrested a large number of the southern Bantu people, including Bagandas, Banyankole, Basoga, Banyoro, Bahiga, Bagisu and Batoro, working either in the Civil Service, quasi-government bodies or as traders. An English daily, *THE STAR* quoting highly reliable sources, said Lt-Gen Okello intends to use the hostages as a last resort if the NRA [National Resistance Army] tried to capture the towns still under his control. Lt-Gen Okello is also reported to have said that he is a prisoner of his own troops and is no longer interested in fighting but cannot escape.

Museveni Interviewed on Internal Issues

LD240504 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Report on interview with Ugandan leader Yoweri Museveni by correspondent Stella Charbi in Uganda; date not given; Museveni remarks in quotation marks recorded in vernacular with superimposed French translation]

[Excerpts] Today, our colleague from the English service of Radio France International, Stella Charbi, brings us an interview with the new Ugandan leader Yoweri Museveni, an interview she obtained when she last reported from Uganda.

In the extract we have chosen Yoweri Museveni defines the role of the village committees, which have been set up in Uganda, and the role of what is now called the politicized police, two ideas introduced by the new regime. Here is Yoweri Museveni speaking with a translation by Pierre Kemner:

"They will be concerned in particular with screening those who want to join the army or the police. They can also operate as guard dogs, so to speak, to guard against abuses of people's rights by officials. They can deal with problems concerning their villages. Incidentally, there is quite a lot to be done in the villages themselves. This requires an army and a police force who know what its role is and why. On a national level, they will have to know who the enemy is and why. They will have to know who their friends are and why, because this awareness will enable them to distinguish between good and evil instead of being blind tools in the hands of those who want to use them."

Yoweri Museveni seems to be very hard on his African neighbors. He believes, in fact, that the African countries abandoned

Uganda twice, under Amin's regime and President Obote's regime. He makes an appeal to them on the respect necessary for human rights:

"Because they did not speak out against the wrongs of the Obote and Amin regimes. It is all very well to talk about noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries, but this cannot be the case where human lives are involved. When a regime starts killing its own citizens, then it is no longer a matter of internal affairs, it is an international affair, a human affair that is the responsibility of all other human beings. To remain silent about such a phenomenon on the grounds of not wishing to interfere in internal affairs is quite simply hypocrisy or collusion. I would like African leaders to respect the rights of the citizens of their own countries, African countries. This is how we will be able to increase our moral strength in our attitude toward South Africa. Without respecting the rights of our own citizens, we have no moral auth ority to speak out against South Africa."

Museveni Visits Front Battle Lines in North

EA231737 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Kampala: The president of Uganda, Mr Yoweri Museveni, has been visiting the front line in the north of the country, where the National Resistance Army has been fighting the forces of the oustedgovernment of Tito Okello. After a series of (?quick) successes in the south and east, the NRA forces are advancing more slowly into the heartland of Mr Okello.

Reports say the NRA is now close to the northern town of Lira, the home area of ousted President Milton Obote. According to the reports, in a battle between NRA soldiers and soldiers of the ousted government in the town, 40 UNLA [Uganda National Liberation Army] soldiers were killed. Two NRA soldiers were also killed in the battle.

CAMEROON

President Receives Belgian Trade Official

AB212126 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] President Paul Biya this afternoon received in audience at State House Belgian secretary of state for external trade, Mr Etienne Knoops. Mr Knoops, who is on a working visit to the country, told the press that cooperation ties between Belgium and Cameroon were on a good footing as can be seen from various Belgian projects in the country. He made particular reference to the construction of the Yaounde general reference hospital which is undertaken by Belgium and intimated further that his country would soon start work other projects, namely the Bamenda omnisports stadium and water supply projects in certain urban areas.

President Biya Leaves for U.S. Visit

AB231457 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] The head of state, his excellency Paul Biya, and Madame Jeanne Irene Biya left Yaounde this morning for a friendly and working visit to the United States of America. The visit is at the invitation of the President of the United States of America, Ronald Reagan.

CAR

UN Economic Commission Session Begins 21 Feb

AB221553 Paris AFP in French 1126 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Bangui, 22 Feb (AFP) — The ninth session of the council of ministers of the member states of the Multinational Programming and Operational Center of the UN Economic Commission for Central Africa (Mulpoc) began in Bangui on Friday, it was learned in the CAR capital on Saturday. The opening ceremony, which was presided over by Joseph Yodoyman, the Chadian minister of planning and national reconstruction and current chairman of the Mulpoc council of ministers, took place in the presence of delegates from Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, the CAR and the ECA deputy executive secretary, Tchouta-Moussa.

The council, it was specified, will review Mulpoc's achievements in 1985 and will give new orientations with a view to strengthening multiform cooperation within the subregion. The Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe delegates were not present in Bangui.

Meeting Ends 22 Feb

AB231652 Paris AFP in French 1531 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Bangui, 23 Feb (AFP) — The ninth ministerial meeting of the member states of the Multinational Programming and Operational Center (Mulpoc) for Central Africa of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) ended in Bangui on Saturday. The meeting adopted proposals to include women in the development process and to create a council to coordinate transportation in Central Africa.

The current Mulpoc chairman for Central Africa, Guy Darlan, CAR minister of planning, expressed satisfaction with the results of the meeting which was attended by representatives of five member states (Congo, Gabon, Chad, Cameroon, and the CAR), as well as by observers from regional and international organizations.

CHAD

President Denies Asking For Sudanese Mediation

AB241310 Paris AFP in French 1144 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Ndjamena, 24 Feb (AFP) — Chadian President Hissein Habre has not asked for the Sudanese Government's mediation in the conflict between Chad and Libya, it was learned Monday in Ndjamena from informed sources. President Habre certainly sent several envoys recently to Africa to explain the conflict between Chad and Libya, but did not ask for Sudanese mediation, it was specified.

Authorities Present Libyan Prisoners to Press

AB212032 Paris AFP in French 1902 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Ndjamena, 21 Feb (AFP) — The Chadian authorities today in Ndjamena presented to the international press two Libyan soldiers captured on 14 February during the Oum Chalouba Kalait fighting (northern Chad). According to Chadian Minister of Information Mahamat Soumaila, another five Libyans were killed during the fighting which took place on 11-14 February.

The two men — Captain Arabi Abdou Salam Ramadan, aged 31, black, born at Zaouya (40 km from Tripoli), and Sergeant Abdallah Ahmed Mohamed, born in 1961 at Missourata, white — could only speak Arabic; so their statements were translated by a Chadian interpreter. Capt Ramadan stated that he and the sergeant were "technical advisers put at the disposal" of the troops of the Transitional National Union Government (GUNT) of Mr Goukouni. According to him, they were the only Libyans in Oum Chalouba during the fighting. "We arrived there behind the Chadian troops. The fighting was only carried out by Chadians." He further said: "I only obeyed my superiors' orders." Sergeant Abdallah, who was Mr Ramadan's driver when they were captured, specified for his part that he had been a sergeant of the Libyan Army since 1981. He was wounded in the hands and suffered afacial contusion.

According to the two men, the operation on Oum Chalouba Kalait had been in preparation for 45 days. They also said that their Libyan chief was Colonel Abdou Halim Issa. Capt Ramadan added that the Libyans present in the GUNT army were "only military advisers charged with training."

The Chadian authorities say the Libyans are participating directly in the fighting, particularly their aviation, signals, and artillery. The fighting at Oum Chalouba Kalait has been the most important in the area of the 16th parallel since the resumption of hostilities between government troops and troops supporting Goukouni Oueddei. The fighting ended a few days ago and the French military buildup codenamed Epervier [Sparrow-Hawk] is almost completed. The buildup essentially comprises the Air Force and has only been set up in the region of the capital.

Libyan-Trained POW's Presented to Press

AB241050 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Excerpt] The fact that Libya is the architect and author of the war in Chad no longer needs to be proved. Since the launching of the new Libyan aggression against Kouba Olanga, Koro Toro, Oum Chalouba Kalait, and Zigey, the proof has been established. Chadian authorities, who have never stopped proving this Libyan aggression, transported Libyan prisoners of war and their mercenaries from the war front to Ndjamena, where they were presented to national and international reporters. This latest illustration of the truth took place this morning with the presentation of several prisoners of war taken recently in the Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti [BET] before journalists.

During the meeting it became evident that the recruitment of mercenaries into the Libyan Army was carried out from posts either in Nigeria, Benin, or in Libya itself. Asked about their fighting on the Libyan side, the prisoners said Tripoli [words indistinct] actually intends annexing our country, the whole country. The Libyans are so resolutely determined to annex our country that heavy weapons and armored cars were brought to arsenal bases. These heavy weapons were brought to the BET from Europe via Libya.

This morning during the presentation of the prisoners of war to the journalists, our reporter, Gonta Logossou, interviewed two of these mercenaries who are Chadians in the pay of Libya. They are Mbaye Namdouka, a master corporal, and Mahamat Yohana Jon, former soldier in the French Army and administrative secretary since 1965. Here is the interview conducted by Gonta Logossou.

[Begin recording] [Namdouka] My name is Mbaye Namdouka.
[Logossou] Where were you born?
[Namdouka] I was born in Lebali in 1950.
[Logossou] In what year were you recruited into the Chadian Army?
[Namdouka] I was recruited into the Chadian Army in 1973.
[Logossou] How did you get to Libya?
[Namdouka] I went to Libya to visit a brother. Two or 3 days later, some people came to talk to us....
[Logossou, interrupting] Who were these people? Were they Chadians or Libyans?
[Namdouka] They were Chadians.
[Logossou] Can you give their identity?
[Namdouka] They were Chadians, but I don't know their names.
[Logossou] What were they? Were they soldiers or civilians?
[Namdouka] There were soldiers as well as civilians.
[Logossou] Since you say you are a former corporal of the Chadian Army, you should be in a position to know your officers.
[Namdouka] I know the name of one captain, Nieke, and there is one I think he is a trader, but I have forgotten his name. I think he is called Ousmane.
[Logossou] Is that all? Just Ousmane?
[Namdouka] It is only this name that comes to mind.
[Logossou] Then you went on to Benin?
[Namdouka] We went on to Benin, and they collected some people in town and....
[Logossou, interrupting] What year was that?
[Namdouka] It was in (?May) 1983. [passage indistinct]
[Logossou] How many Chadians were there?
[Namdouka] In all, 126 Chadians.
[Logossou] In what Libyan town did you receive your training?
[Namdouka] They took us to Sabha, but not in downtown Sabha. It was about 20 km from Sabha, called Imatravars where we were given basic training.
[Logossou] Were you not with the Libyan legion which attacked the northern part of the country in 1983?
[Namdouka] In 1983, we were still under training. We had 4 months of training, and in the 5th month we were sent to Faya [Largeau]. We spent 1 week in Faya-Largeau and we were sent to Tripoli where we spent 1 year. [end recording]

Bardai Radio Condemns Diouf Approval of French Moves

AB232056 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio
in French 1830 GM23 Feb 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] We have just learned that President Abdou Diouf, current OAU chairman has approved of the new French intervention. If the Senegalese head of state made this statement in his capacity as president of Senegal, then there is nothing surprising about this statement, since as everyone is aware, Senegal has been following in the wake of French imperialism in Africa since the colonial era. On the other hand, if Abdou Diouf made this statement in his capacity as current OAU chairman, then this statement is not only unfair and unfortunate, but it also worries us about the very future of the OAU.

In fact, through Senegal, France is indirectly presiding over the future of the pan-African organization. Consequently, it is not surprising that the Ndjamena group and their foreign masters -- who sabotaged the OAU's intervention in the Chadian issue -- have asked for the inclusion of the Chadian issue on the agenda of the upcoming OAU foreign ministers' conference. French imperialism and reactionaryism will not succeed in regaining diplomatically what they have lost militarily.

Bardai Radio: Habre Will Fall Despite French Aid

AB232206 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio
in French 1800 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Are Paris' proteges capable of drawing their lessons from the history of the liberation of people from the imperialist and reactionary yoke? In their confrontation with the Vietnamese, Algerian, and Nigerian peoples, were the French imperialists able [illegible] ceed? Also in Chad, in spite of France's military int[illegible] on the side of their strawmen, the French imperialis[illegible]ver be able to defeat the liberation struggle of the Chadian people.

The transformation of Ndjamena airport into a French military base, the French Jaguar planes — real flying cardboard boxes according to a leader of the National Liberation Army — the tanks, and other crude missiles cannot save the shameful Ndjamena regime and prevent its fall.

They have set up this operation without being aware of the fact that our ancestors have already set the liberation process in motion and it is our duty to complete it. The Mitterrand group must take into account the determination of the Chadian people to refuse the division of their territory. The stand of our heroic people which was forcefully reasserted in the press communique issued by the presidency of the Transitional National Union Government on 19 February, has been concretized on the battlefield with the victorious crossing of the shameful line drawn by the French imperialists on the indivisible territory of Chad. Moreover, the liberation struggle will not stop in the middle of the road. As the press communique issued by the Ministry of Information said, instead of intimidating the martyred people of Chad, the imperialist occupation of Chad is merely giving a real meaning to their freedom fight.

On the new French operation, one can say that like Manta, [words indistinct] and other interventions, it can neither protect French interests in Chad, nor save their watchmen.

Bardai Radio: GUNT To Return Body of French Officer

AB232125 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1830 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Excerpt] The body of Major Galopin [French negotiator], who was assassinated in 1975 upon Hissein Habre's orders, will be returned in the forthcoming days to the French Government, to his parents.

This humanitarian gesture was decided upon by Comrade Goukouni Oueddei, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Revolution, and president of the Transitional National Union Government. The handing over of the body of the French officer will take place in the presence of foreign journalists.

BURKINA FASO

Congo's Sassou-Nguesso Addresses Public Meeting

AB211245 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 20 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Since this morning, the whole Burkinabe capital has been lively due to the working and friendly visit which President Denis Sassou-Nguesso of the People's Republic of Congo is paying to our country. The delegation, which arrived in Ouagadougou at about 1300, includes notably the head of state's wife and artists like Zao and Pamelo Munka. It was at 1700 that the meeting began at the 4 August Stadium. This meeting was a rendezvous of give and take, a rendezvous of frank and sincere dialogue. This evening's meeting made it possible to exchange the experiences of two revolutions, those of Congo and Burkina Faso.

In his speech, the comrade president of Burkina Faso [Captain Thomas Sankara] recalled the long-standing relations between the two countries but stressed the fact that this was the first time the Congolese leadership has been represented at such a high level. The captain and president then paid tribute to the former Congolese president, Marien Ngouabi, who died prematurely before having the happiness of knowing about the Burkinabe revolution. He also saluted the presence of Mrs Antoinette Nguesso and of Mrs Bongi, the wife of the Congolese prime minister.

As for President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, the man of concrete actions, he conveyed the militant and revolutionary greetings of the People's Republic of Congo to the Burkinabe people and thanked them for their militant reception. He then severely criticized apartheid which in itself constitutes a great challenge to our century. He specified: We have come to witness on-the-spot with all humility the exciting experiment of Burkina Faso. The Congolese president also hailed our people's courage which is being demonstrated by the difficult struggles we are waging in many fields, such as the struggle against drought and for the completion of the (Kamboro) railroad project. The experiment taking place here in Burkina Faso constitutes as encouragement for Congo.

[Begin Sassou-Nguesso recording] The challenge of the century now facing the whole of Africa is that of apartheid. Imagine that in this 20th century, many millions of men are being treated like animals. Imagine that it is the very people who talk of human rights and in the name of human rights who are the first champions of this most odious system! We saw them rising up against fascism and nazism. We saw them utilizing the most powerful means to crush fascism.

It is astonishing to observe that they fail to adopt the same attitude toward the situation prevailing in southern Africa in general and particularly in South Africa. What is worse is that officially, openly, and with great media publicity, a country which speaks in the name of human rights is receiving one of the well-known traitors, Jonas Savimbi. It has officially decided to give million of dollars and weapons to Jonas Savimbi so that he may openly attack the government of an independent African country which is a member of the OAU and the United Nations. It is astonishing to know that there is no general disapproval of this situation. Rather, there is culpable silence here and there and almost everywhere! Comrades, these are the challenges posed to the African peoples and which we must meet. [end recording]

After the meeting at the 4 August Stadium, our illustrious guest is now taking part in a reception given in his honor by the president of Burkina Faso.

GAMBIA

Foreign Minister Leaves for Freetown, Lagos

AB221441 Paris AFP in French 1335 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Banjul, 22 Feb (AFP) — The Gambian minister of foreign affairs, Lamin Kiti Jabang, left Banjul on Saturday [22 Feb] for Freetown and Lagos, according to an official source. In Freetown, Mr Jabang is expected to hold talks with the Iranian ambassador on the Iraqi-Iranian conflict, the same source specified. The Gambian head of state, Sir Dawda Jawara, is the chairman of the Islamic Peace Committee charged with finding a peaceful solution to the conflict. He recently launched an appeal for a cease-fire.

In Lagos, the Gambian foreign minister will deliver a message from the Gambian president to his Nigerian counterpart. The message is related to bilateral relations between the Gambia and Nigeria, the official source indicated.

Ex-Officials Form New Government Opposition Party

AB220832 Paris AFP in English 0808 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Banjul, Feb 22 (AFP) — Gambia's one time Vice President Assan Musa Camara and two former cabinet ministers said here Friday [21 February] they had formed the Gambia People's Party as an opposition group.

The ex-ministers are Lamin Saho (attorney general) and Howsoon Semega Janneth (information).

Mr Camara and Mr Saho were MP's of the ruling People's Progressive Party (PPP) until they resigned from it earlier this month. Mr Saho said at the time that the PPP was no longer a proper party, but a "one man show", because party leader Sir Dawda Jawara, Gambia's president, was taking decisions on his own without consulting anyone.

The three dissidents, in a communique read on state radio, said they were acting in the name of a standing committee of the new party, and that a consultative assembly would be held soon to set out the party's policies. Official opposition to the ruling PPP comes currently from the National Convention Party, which holds three of the 35 seats in parliament. Five are held by independents.

GHANA

Bulgarian Delegation Arrives for Visit

AB232021 Accra Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] A Bulgarian delegation arrived in Accra today to begin a 2-day visit to Ghana as part of a six-nation African tour. The 2-member team is led by the deputy minister for foreign affairs, Mr Lyubomir Popov. He told newsmen that the members would hold talks with the government on bilateral cooperation between Ghana and Bulgaria.

They will also discuss political, economic, and cultural, as well as educational matters. Mr Popov said both countries can further develop their traditional relations for their mutual benefit.

The delegation has already been to Guinea and Senegal.

PLO Envoy Delivers 'Arafat Message to Rawlings

AB211809 Accra Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] The leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Yassir 'Arafat, has sent a special message to the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] chairman, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings.

The message was delivered to the secretary for foreign affairs, Dr Obed Asamoah, in Accra today by the PLO ambassador to Nigeria, Samir Baker. The contents of the message are not known. They are, however, believed to focus on strengthening relations between Ghana and the organization.

In brief discussions, Dr Asamoah said the envoy's visit provides an opportunity for discussing matters of interest between the PLO and Ghana. He said Ghana believes in the aspirations of the PLO with special reference to their right to self-determination.

The secretary recalled that Ghana has refused to reestablish diplomatic relations with Israel, and this policy would continue until Israel shows her desire for a change.

Mr Baker, on his part, noted that Ghana has always supported the struggle of the Palestinian people.

He said Africa and the Arab world must cooperate and unite against their common enemy supported by imperialism who continue to occupy Arab territory, Namibia, Angola, and apartheid South Africa. Mr Baker promised to keep the PNDC chairman informed of developments in the Middle East.

Speaking to newsmen later, he said unless the United States stops treating the Palestinian issue as a refugee problem, there would be no peace of solution to the problem.

The PLO will therefore not accept UN Resolution 342 which recognizes Palestinians as refugees.

LIBERIA

Five Witnesses Qualify for Johnson-Sirleaf Trial

AB212124 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
2000 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Five state witnesses were today qualified by Criminal Court A to testify before the Grand Jury for the subsequent indictment of Mrs Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf who was detained on charges of treason. Mr Jacob Nemlin, asssistant for police director for operation James Karpeh, Mrs Dorin Helen Cooper, Francis Kaifai, and Louis Kerley were qualified today upon the request of the prosecution. Court sources say following the testimonies of the five state witnesses, the grand jury is expected to decide based on the evidences adduced; whether the case would be forwarded to court for prosecution.

MALI

Moussa Traore Returns From Paris 20 Feb

AB210915 Bamako Domestic Service in French
0700 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] General Moussa Traore, president of the republic, returned to Bamako last night [20 February] from Paris where he participated in the first summit confernece of French-speaking countries.

On his arrival in Bamako, the president was welcomed by General Amadou Baba Diara, deputy secretary general of the party and minister of state for planning. Present at the welcoming ceremony were members of the Central Executive Bureau, the government, the National Assembly, and the diplomatic corps accredited to Bamako.

Discusses Situation in Chad

AB211744 Bamako Domestic Service in French
1500 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Excerpts] The Congolese head of state, Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso, is expected in Bamako tomorrow at 1100 for a 2-day working and friendly visit to Mali.

It should be recalled that in October 1984, Congo organized a reconciliation meeting for all the Chadian warring factions, and the recent OAU summit has asked this country to continue its mediation efforts. According to President Moussa Traore, who actively contributed to the efforts toward peace in Chad, reconciliation is the only solution to the conflict. He disclosed this to our reporter Daouda Ndiaye.

[Begin Traore recording] I was personally surprised by the new development in the situation in Chad, since precisely on 2 February, 1986, I received a delegation led by (Rafik), the minister of national defense of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT], which came for advice in search of a solution for lasting peace. We did not fail to give the GUNT (?necessary) advice and invite it to contact the authorities in Ndjamena as soon as possible whenever they want so that this situation of no peace and no war can end. And on 10 February, we learned that the GUNT forces attacked the positions of the Ndjamena Government troops, and that in retaliation, France is said to have bombed Ouadi Doum runway, and that Libya, also in retaliation, is said to have bombed the Ndjamena runway. All that is painful, because after all, (?the Chadians are the victims) not Malians, and this is what I have to tell Chadians, the GUNT and the Ndjamena authorities. This situation cannot leave Mali indifferent, since at all the African meetings we will examine the issue. I think that Africans have to mobilize all their energies to face the situation so that African bloodwill be shed no more. Initiatives have been taken and certainly, we will achieve concrete results. [end recording]

Congolese Leader Sassou-Nguesso Arrives for Visit

AB221433 Bamako Domestic Service in French
1300 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Excerpt] The president of the Republic of Congo, Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso, arrived in Bamako today for a 2-day working and friendly visit to Mali. He was welcomed by the president of the Republic, General Moussa Traore with whom were members of the Central Executive Bureau, the Cabinet and National Assembly. It should be stressed that during his visit, the Congolese head of state will hold talks with President Moussa Traore and they will both visit Segou.

NIGERIA

AFP Reports High Commissioner to UK Named

AB241420 Paris AFP in English 1357 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] Lagos, Feb 24 (AFP) — Nigeria has named the top civil servant in the Ministry of External Affairs as its new high commissioner (ambassador) to Britain, ending 19 months of diplomatic estrangement, a government newspaper reported today. The official, George Dove-Edwin, is the permanent secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, a post to which he was appointed in 1984. Previously he headed diplomatic missions in India, Japan, Sweden and France. There was no official confirmation of the appointment disclosed by the *DAILY TIMES* newspaper, which quoted unidentified sources. Mr Dove-Edwin, who was born in 1928, was said to be on vacation.

On February 11 London appointed Martin Ewans, 57, as high commissioner to Nigeria, one of Britain's largest trading partners and a former crown colony, ending a freeze which stemmed from the botched attempt to kidnap former Nigerian Transport Minister Umaru Dikko from his London home on July 5, 1984. Mr Wans is expected to arrive here Friday [28 Feb].

Minister Announces Release of Coup Plotters

AB211545 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] The minister of defense, Major General Domkat Bali,today confirmed that he had ordered the release of Group Captain Salaudeen Latinwo and and Group Captain David Okpeme who were among those suspected to have been involved in a coup plot.

Gen Bali told a Radio Nigeria correspondent in Lagos today that he had ordered the release of some others who had not been found guilty by the special military tribunal tyring the suspected coup plotters. The minister declined to tell our correspondent the exact number and names of the officers whose release had been ordered. He said, however, that the full findings of the investigating panel would be made public soon and that those ordered to be released were still being kept under close observation by their respective service chiefs.

Gen Bali announced last December that a plot to overthrow the Federal Government had been uncovered by the authorities. The minister of information and culture, Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Ukpo, later disclosed the names of the initial 14 suspected coup plotters, including Group Capt Salaudeen Latinwo and Group Capt David Okpeme.

Government Amends Special Tribunal Treason Decree

AB211230 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1200 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] The Federal Government has amended Section 5 of the Treason and Other Offenses Special Military Tribunal Decree 1986. According to a supplementary government *GAZETTE* released in Lagos, any ruling by the special military tribunal will be discussed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff within 14 days of the receipt of the findings.

In the same vain, the tribunal's sentence and the recommendations of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall not be treated as final and binding until confirmed by the Armed Forces Ruling Council. Also the Jont Chiefs of Staff shall cause to be transmitted to the confirming authority its recommendations and the record of proceedings and findings of the special military tribunal. The decree took effect from the 6th of last month.

SENEGAL

President Diouf Returns From Paris Summit

AB222206 Dakar Domestic Service in French
2000 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Excerpt] President Abdou Diouf returned to Dakar this evening from Paris where he attended the summit of French-speaking nations. He traveled on the same plane as President Joao Bernardo Vieira who stopped over in Dakar for 1 hour.

Interviewed on Chadian Conflict

AB211120 Libreville Africa No.1 in French
0630 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] At the end of the francophone summit conference [in Paris] President Abdou Diouf talked about the Chadian conflcit in an exclusive interview he granted to Adama Gueye, correspondent of Africa No.1 in Paris.

[Begin recording] [Diouf] I have two things to say about this matter. First of all, I approve the French intervention because France is helping a country and a legitimate regime and government — President Hissein Habre's government which has been attacked. And this is at the request of that government. France helps its friends to maintain peace and stability within their borders. The second thing I have to say is that I think that this Chadian problem cannot be solved by force of arms but through political negotiations.

In this connection, I would like first of all to pay tribute to President El-Hadj Omar Bongo for the efforts he has made in favor of national reconciliation in Chad. We have noted the results and we rejoice over them. We congratulate him for them.

Congoiese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, who has been mandated by the OAU to see to this task of reconciliation, has not remained inactive. He took some initiatives in liaison with the current chairman of the OAU.

I can now disclose to you that a few days before the start of this military operation, the Senegalese and Congolese foreign ministers — who had been mandated by their two presidents in the name of the OAU — were received by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and later by Mr Goukouni Oueddei agreed to a meeting between him and President Hissein Habre to discuss political issues in order to find political solutions to the Chadian problems. I was very much surprised later to see Mr Goukouni Oueddei and his troops attacking President Habre's troops, the Chadian troops.

I simply want to tell you also that President Denis Sassou-Nguesso and I are continuing our efforts and we will discuss this problem in a few days in Dakar — not later than next Monday since President Sassou-Nguesso is coming to Senegal on a state visit. We will continue our efforts so that a meeting and negotiations may take place as soon as possible between the legitimate president of Chad and Mr Goukouni Oueddei, the leader of the opposition, assisted by his close advisers in order that we may achieve a political solution which alone can make it possible to safeguard the unity of Chad as well as the peace and stability of that country to ensure its reconstruction and development.

[Gueye] Do you think that the negotiation you are calling for will have great incidence since two of the parties involved — France and Libya — are not included?

[Diouf] President Sassou-Nguesso has been mandated by the OAU [words indisitnct] to promote national reconciliation between the citizens of Chad.

If there were no division between the citizens of Chad, there would have been no reason for the intervention by foreign powers. The fundamental problem, therefore, is national reconciliation between Chadians. And I will continue my efforts in liaison with President Denis Sassou-Nguesso in order to achieve this national reconciliation. [End recording]

ANGOLA

New Deputy Minister for Security Appointed

MB221301 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, has sworn in in the [words indistinct] in Luanda today the new deputy minister for state security, Fernando Dias da Piedade dos Santos. As we previously announced, Colonel Mateus Paulo Dino Matross, former minister of state security, has been dismissed [words indistinct]. The new deputy minister will report directly to the president.

Fernando Dias da Piedade dos Santos was until yesterday deputy interior minister. Members of the party Central Committee and government attended the swearing-in ceremony.

BOTSWANA

Masire Says Diplomatic Talks With RSA Continuing

MB211417 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1142 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Gaborone, Feb 21, SAPA — Botswana President Quett Masire said diplomatic discussions to persuade South Africa to conduct its relations with other countries in a "more civilised" manner were continuing.

Dr Masire said Botswana's objective was to build mutual confidence and respect. "This is a difficult task for us because we are the aggrieved party," he said. "But it is important that South Africa should be persuaded to a more civilised conduct of its affairs and relations with other countries."

Dr Masire said he was convinced no sane government seriously believed it could go on attacking other countries simply because it had the resources to do so. "It is morally wrong, inadmissable, in international law to do so."

Botswana was trying to achieve better communication through diplomatic channels, he said.

To Hold More Security Talks

MB240700 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0656 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 24, SAPA — South Africa and Botswana hold security talks in Gaborone tomorrow to follow up earlier talks held in Pretoria on February 5. This was confirmed today by a spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The South African delegation will return to Pretoria tomorrow after the discussions.

MOZAMBIQUE

Maputo Without Electricity; Sabotage Possible

LD232252 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] The Mozambican capital has been without electricity since yesterday evening, just 3 days after the damage caused by the last Renamo sabotage was repaired. Radio Mozambique has been transmitting appeals this afternoon for all Mozambican electrical workers to report for duty. Commercial radio's correspondent in Maputo, Fernando Lima, contacted a short while ago by this newsdesk, reported that the Mozambican authorities are attributing the power cut to a serious fault in the Insolane substation. This is not to exclude, however, the possibility of sabotage by Renamo. Since the beginning of this year, Renamo has sabotaged the power lines between the South African power station at Komatipoort and Maputo twice.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO Leader Says U.S. Policy 'Catastrophe'

PM211309 Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 11 Feb 86 p 9

[Interview with SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma by Eva Elmsater: "The United States Is Backing the Wrong Horse in Africa" — date not given]

[Text] Lusaka — "We are not afraid that Angola will stop supporting us. President Eduardo dos Santos recently gave me a promise of continued support for SWAPO," Namibian nationalist movement leader Sam Nujoma told *AFTENPOSTEN* after the recent talks between the United States and Angola.

"Angola has a right to talk to whatever country it likes. We are simply grateful for its support," Nujoma said.

The price of giving a home to SWAPO is very high for Angola. South African troops carry out constant raids and occupy areas deep inside Angola. At the same time the UNITA guerrilla movement continues its attacks on the government's troops, now with support from the United States.

"U.S. policy in southern Africa is a catastrophe. It is one great contradiction, but we are not surprised. We have long been subjected to it. Without their interference the war in Namibia would not have gone on for so long," Nujoma said.

The United States is still in contact with all parties and the SWAPO leader confirmed that as recently as January he had talks with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker in Angola's capital, Luanda.

"He did not really have anything new to say. The U.S. support for Savimbi, which is worth $30 million, will not change anything. It will only delay Namibia's independence, not halt it. The United States is backing the wrong horse when it supports Savimbi," Sam Nujoma said.

The newest element in U.S. policy in southern Africa — inviting UNITA Leader Jonas Savimbi to Washington — led to sharp protests at the SADCC meeting in Harare and the Frontline States' meeting with the EEC in Lusaka recently. However, the EEC nations refused to condemn the U.S. invitation to Savimbi and the Frontline States had to produce their own statement.

The SWAPO leader is convinced that the economic crisis in South Africa will break the regime and that the cost of the war in Namibia is beginning to get too high.

"South Africa spends $3 million a day keeping 110,000 men in Namibia. We are fighting against the whole South African Army. It has recently built a new base on the other side of the border, so that it can send in fresh troops," Nujoma said.

The economic burden has made President Pieter W. Botha declare publicly that South Africa no longer derives any benefit from the war in Namibia and that it is ready to abandon Namibia.

"This is merely one of his maneuvers, one of the usual tricks he uses with the help of Reagan and the United States," the SWAPO leader said.

The struggle for Namibian independence has been going on for several decades and is still no closer to a solution. The political game surrounding Namibia continues to harden, and it is clear that SWAPO feels hard-pressed.

"Our war has not become more difficult. It is Pretoria which is trying to complicate the whole thing, but we know exactly how we will achieve our goal," Nujoma assured me.

However, recent South African attacks have had some success and UNITA is proclaiming new victories all the time. This is because South Africa has superior and more advanced arms.

"They will be driven back by the Angola Government Army, just as when Angola became independent," the SWAPO leader said.

SOUTH AFRICA

Bishop Tutu 'Booed, Jeered at' in Alexandra Stadium

MB211816 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1900 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Bishop Desmond Tutu has received an angry reaction from Alexandra township residents. The Anglican bishop was booed and jeered at when he addressed an estimated 30,000 people at a soccer stadium in the Johannesburg township. Bishop Tutu was reporting on the talks he had yesterday with government officials on the recent violence in Alexandra. Bishop Tutu said the government would consider their demands for the release of people detained during the rioting and the removal of police from the township. The crowd booed him and demanded the release of detainees immediately. Many people left the stadium before Bishop Tutu finished speaking, saying the talks between church leader and government officials were a failure.

SACC Group Holds News Conference on Vlok Meeting

MB211920 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1911 GMT
21 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 21, SAPA — Had white people seen the reaction of Alexandra residents at the report back meeting on concessions won by the delegation of clergymen who held talks with government representatives yesterday, they would have besieged Parliament for change in this country, Reverend Peter Storey said today.

Speaking at a press conference after South African Council of Churches [SACC] and Alexandra Civic Association representatives reported back to 30,000 Alexandra residents this afternoon on talks in Cape Town, the churchmen said Alexandra residents expected more than the concessions won.

Mr Storey wished every white South African could have witnessed what "white arrogance" and apartheid had done to a generation. The community was not going to "stand apartheid and all its attendant evils," he said.

The country would not know how much it owed Bishops Desmond Tutu and Manas Buthelezi, and Mr Mike Beea, chairman of the Alexandra Civic Association, who addressed the crowd, he said. A "slender thread of leadership" enabled Bishop Tutu to get the community to disperse peacefully, he said.

Bishop Tutu said: "We cannot guarantee that the people have dispersed peacefully. We would be surprised if some of the people have not gone on the rampage."

The situation was "calm but very tense," according to Mr Beaa.

Bishop Buthelezi, president of the South African Council of Churches, said there were interjections from members of the audience in the Alexandra stadium who "expected more than we delivered."

"What the government regards as reform... in the black community... that is regarded as a futile exercise."

Bishop Tutu told the news conference: "They wanted us to deliver all the goods — the state of emergency lifted, the army withdrawn and those detained released."

The group was granted a concession during the three hour meeting at the state president's Cape Town residence yesterday on the possible withdrawal of troops from the township.

Government representative, Mr Adriaan Vlok, who is the deputy minister of law and order, undertook that there would be further discussions with the churches on the lifting of the state of emergency and the removal of the South African Defence Force from townships.

Security forces kept a lower profile today than when they were deployed in great numbers in Alexandra on Tuesday, Mr Beea said. Other undertakings on specific grievances, outlined in a SACC statement, were:

— Mr Vlok undertook to use his influence to facilitate the issue of a permit allowing today's report-back meeting to take place.

— He promised local police would be asked to facilitate the burial of those who had died. "This was with the understanding that in the black community a funeral is always a community event," the statement said.

— Mr Vlok promised the request that detainees be released would get "the necessary attention." The statement said: "There was an understanding that such attention would include the possibility of simple release or a release into the custody of a body like a church in cases where charges were being investigated."

Mr Vlok would report to the state president, Mr P.W. Botha.

Mr Botha sent a message saying although he would have liked to have attended the meeting, prior commitments would not allow him to do so.

The SACC telexed a request for Thursday's meeting late on Wednesday afternoon and they did not regard Mr Botha's absence as a snub, the men said. They expressed surprise at the relaxed and friendly atmosphere at the talks.

"The exchanges were very frank. Most of the talking was from our side," Bishop Tutu said. "It was a very friendly meeting. Now I don't want to be euphoric but it certainly was not the kind of meeting we expected would take place."

Tutu, Boesak's Use of Church Positions Questioned

MB240644 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] At what point does a religious leader, engaged in public affairs, find himself having gone beyond the legitimate grey area between them? More specifically, at what point does his primary loyalty to the moral imperatives imposed by his church shift to the politics of power with its opportunist compromises with principle? And at what point — surely Bishop Desmond Tutu and the Rev Allan Boesak must have asked themselves this — does he find himself systematically exploiting his religious status in the community in order to advance his political purposes?

By now, South Africa is accustomed to absurdities like the telegram sent to creditor bankers last week to try to prevent an agreement on the foreign debt issue. Naturally enough, the bankers, who have enough political insight and more than enough economic sense to recognize an implicit call for chaos, ignored the telegram and its demand for a combined effort to replace the government.

But that sortie by Bishop Tutu and Dr Boesak was merely fatuous. The disclosure later in the week of their attempt to manipulate an international aid donor is altogether more serious. It appears that the Coca-Cola company had been holding discussions with different groups in South Africa about its plans for establishing a trust fund of some 20 million rands for the advancement of black people. Evidently the main target was the improvement of education. In any event, it was a purely humanitarian gesture, of a kind that a church, concerned with the social conditions of its community, might be expected to welcome unconditionally.

Not, however, Bishop Tutu and Dr Boesak. They, assisted on this occasion by Prof Jakes Gerbel, rector-designate of the University of the Western Cape, have seen fit to impose specific political conditions on the granting of any such assistance to black South Africans. Coca-Cola, they have informed it in a joint memorandum, must threaten to withdraw from South Africa unless the government agrees to a list of political changes which they set out. It must also demand publicly that the government should engage in talks with the ANC. On the other hand, the company must exclude for its aid project certain figures not politically acceptable to Messrs Tutu, Boesak, and Gerbel. In what is described in news reports as an obvious reference to Chief Buthelezi and the Inkatha movement, it is warned not to involve persons or groups connected with the homelands.

The memorandum is virtually a political program. It sets out policies, lays down who may and who may not participate in major ventures affecting the community, and even ventures into the field of what levers of power should be used — in this case disinvestment — for achieving the political goals.

The most important lever available to Bishop Tutu and Dr Boesak is not mentioned since it is obvious to all. It is the power that is conferred on them by their positions of leadership in the church, to discredit and perhaps even destroy their aid project if their political demands are not met.

Whether or not there was any intention to convey such a threat, it is implied by the mere act of imposing political conditions. Indeed, these two clergymen should be answering some fundamental questions about where they stand.

President's Council Holds Debate on Unrest

MB211259 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1245 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] President's Council, Feb 21, SAPA — The issues that mattered to all people was feeding their families and providing them with shelter, and there was too much emphasis on political rights, Mr G.D. Bornman, Transvaal National Party [NP] member of the President's Council [PC], said today.

Speaking in the unrest debate, he said that what was important in a country was a strong government and a strong economy.

"If the Group Areas Act and the Population Registration Act are done away with overnight it would not help to provide houses for people who need them; only a strong economy can." The abolition of apartheid would not build schools, but the regional services councils would be able to do achieve this.

An attitude in which people would make use of all the opportunities available to them needed to be created.

"Those who decided to use opportunities to gain economic power are not doing it at the cost of others but rather through their own contribution," he said. "We hope the opportunity to speak to blacks will soon come about and be used."

Mr Bornman said Mr Robin Carlisle (PFP [Progressive Federal Party] member of the PF) had referred negatively to the state president's initiatives at the opening of Parliament as "hitting the deck like a lead balloon." None of these initiatives had been unfounded and they were putting into practice a total approach.

Mr J.J.N. van der Westhuyzen, NP member for Natal, said Mr Carlisle's argument that apartheid was at the bottom of all misery in the country was untrue because unrest in the country had always occurred in times of economic recession. Had it not been for apartheid, radical groups like the militant Poqo, which planned to kill all whites in the eastern and western Cape in the 1960's, would not have been foiled. Apartheid had made the continued settlement of whites in these areas possible.

Referring to the "war" between the Zulus and the Pondos in Natal, he said the underlying reason for the inter-tribal fighting was that Zulus felt the Pondos were taking their jobs.

The government needed to realise it was dealing with Third World elements who should be allowed to solve their own political and unrest issues in their own manner.

Mr N.F. Treurnicht (NP) said later in the debate that the police should use a "strong hand" against people who resorted to violence in South Africa. The government should look for ways to give the maximum amount of freedom to the greatest possible number of people in the country, but the immediate scrapping of apartheid was not the answer. This would create a vacuum which would be filled by propagators of violence and communists committed not to freedom but to the enslaving of all people. The government should not negotiate with these people and the police should use a strong hand against them. It was also important that white racism not be replaced by black racism, Mr Treurnicht said.

Mr P.C. Schoeman (PFP) said blacks no longer believed in constitutions. It was clear to blacks that the present constitution, with its fundamental principle of compulsory groupings, was a major cause of the present unrest. With its system of racial classification, the constitution ensured retention of power by whites. "Many blacks see violence as built into the system," he said, adding that all they wanted was their freedom.

Reaction to Debt Rescheduling Agreement Reported

ANC Condemns Agreement

MB221225 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] The ANC of South Africa has described Western Bankers' complicity with the Pretoria regime as genocide and terrorism against that country's oppressed majority.

In a statement issued in Lusaka, the ANC international affairs director, Comrade John Makatini, condemned an agreement reached in London yesterday giving South Africa more time to repay its foreign debt. He said the bankers' decision to ignore pleas from the leaders of the black people in South Africa and from the international community not to help the Botha regime has made the bankers [word indinstinct] genocide and terrorism.

Comrade Makatini said Western [words indistinct] South Africa's puppets abroad. Under the agreement reached between South Africa and more than 30 European and American banks, Pretoria can spread repayment of $500 million of its $14 billion dollar debt over the next 12 months.

Du Plessis Welcomes Agreement

MB211237 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] The South African minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, says yesterday's foreign debt agreement in London with creditor banks will have a positive effect on the South African budget.

Interviewed in Cape Town, Mr du Plessis said the feeling among the banks was that South Africa would be able to normalize its international position as well as its sociopolitical problems in the medium term.

He said the state president's speech at the opening of Parliament this year had created an atmosphere which had made yesterday's agreement possible. He added that South Africa was on the road to financial recovery.

Mr du Plessis said that South Africa was not in the same position as several other countries in South America as far as rescheduling of debts was concerned.

PFP Finance Spokesman Comments

MB211235 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1122 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Cape Town, Feb 21, SAPA — The terms of South Africa's foreign debt agreement would not provide any long term assistance in solving the country's problems, the PFP finance spokesman, Mr Harry Schwarz, said today.

Reacting in Cape Town to news of the agreement reached in London between South African officials and the country's major international creditor banks, he said in a statement that there may be a degree of relief at the broad agreement. However, he said, it was only an interim settlement subject to periodic review and it would need further negotiation.

The statement by Swiss negotiator Dr Fritz Leutwiler that there was no question of South Africa asking for more money at this stage made it clear the real problems facing South Africa were being shelved.

"South Africa needs foreign capital in order to achieve the kind of growth required to make any meaningful impact on the need to create more employment opportunities," he said.

It was bad news if, without new capital, 700 million dollars had to be repaid in the next year, in addition to one and a half billion dollars outside the debt standstill, against a current surplus estimated at about the same amount. The payment of 1 per cent extra interest on the matured but not repaid debt would involve more foreign exchange.

"All that can relieve this situation is a renegotiation with individual banks for rollovers or, perhaps, other long term facilities.

"If there is to be any meaningful upswing in the economy one would expect imports to increase and this would exercise pressure on the current accout," he said.

"To commit the entire anticipated current account surplus for a year to the repayment of old debt without new facilities will make revival in the economy difficult, particularly where there are many uncertainties in respect of the extent of the surplus."

In any event, there was no formal rescheduling agreement, there were loose ends and, apart from the the major banks, there were still many others to be dealt with, Mr Schwarz said.

"What must be realised by our policy makers, and should be understood by those in the West who want South Africa to change without excessive further violence, is that the mode of change is related to the level of employment and the ability to provide equal social services, solve housing problems and other pressing needs.

"With the population increasing at a substantial rate, it is not possible for South Africa to generate the capital to do this.

"Not only the nature of the process of change will be effected by this, but also whether the post-apartheid society will, or will not, be part of the free democratic world or fall under other spheres of influence."

Stals on Debt Technical Committee

MB211828 Johannesburg Television Service in English 1700 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Excerpt] In London today representatives of the 30 major creditor banks involved in South Africa's debt standstill met to form the Technical Committee which is going to give further attention to the Leutwiler accord. Jerry Schuitema reports.

[Begin video][Schuitema][Words indistinct] developments today Dr Fritz Leutwiler sent his proposals to the 200 or so banks making up the remainder of 30 percent of the outstanding debt. Now this venue behind me of the meeting was kept a closely-guarded secret and this underlines an important feature of the new phase which the negotiations have entered, less in the public eye, less emotional, less political, and more technical. I spoke to Dr Chris Stals about the composition of the committee.

[Stals] The committee comes from banks in the United States, in the United Kingdom, in Switzerland, Germany, and France. This small technical group will meet very regularly during the next 6 weeks and it is the intention that the committee should now concentrate on the practical problems that may arise from the implication of the Leutwiler proposals.

[Schuitema] What will Dr Leutwiler's role be in future?

[Stals] Dr Leutwiler agreed yesterday at the request of the banks and of South Africa to continue to remain in the background as mediator. It is very likely that he will not be very active during the next few months, but when we come to the major review of the arrangement again next year he will again be the chairman and he will again take the lead.

[Schuitema] While yesterday's agreement is regarded as a step in the right direction, the general feeling is that there are still troubled waters ahead before the situation returns to normal. One of the problems that had to be faced is that only 30 of the major creditor banks was present at the meeting in London yesterday, leaving negotiation still to be concluded with another 350 smaller banks, a process that could take months.

Buthelezi Rebuts Slabbert-P.W. Botha Comments

MB211516 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0500 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] KwaZulu's chief minister has reacted sharply to the Van Zyl Slabbert-P.W. Botha tapes, in which the two leaders discussed Chief Buthelezi's role. More from Carmel Rickard in Durban.

[Rickard] Chief Buthelezi, who is in Germany at the moment, has released a lengthy and bitter response to the tapes. He said that in the tapes State President Botha and Dr Slabbert were acting, in his words, like two whites pontificating about an uppity, difficult kaffir. He described remarks that he could end up playing a role similar to that of Bishop Abel Muzorewa as balderdash, and accused Dr Slabbert of plunging a vicious barb into his back. He said while Dr Slabbert was descended from Afrikanerdom, he was descended from Zulu warriors, whom he then listed, and could therefore never play a Muzorewa role. He also slammed remarks made on the tape that he wanted to be the only bull in the kraal. He said he had already stated he would be prepared to serve under the ANC's Nelson Mandela if he were democratically elected.

Inflation Rate Reaches 20.7 Percent in January

MB211355 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1354 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 21, SAPA — South Africa's inflation rate rose to 20.7 per cent in January, 2.3 per cent above the all-time high reached in December last year, according to figures released in Pretoria today.

A statement by the Central Statistical Services said the consumer price indices [CPI] for the lower, middle and higher income groups increased by 18.7 per cent, 20.7 per cent and 21.3 per cent respectively from January 1985 to January 1986.

Average food prices again increased sharply — 4.4 per cent — compared with December 1985, and 19.0 per cent compared with January 1985.

"Large monthly food price increases mainly occurred in the urban areas of Cape Town (5.9 per cent), Port Elizabeth (5.5 per cent), Klerksdorp (5.5 per cent), and the OFS [Orange Free State] goldfields (7.3 per cent)," the statement said.

Commodities showed a rise of 23.7 per cent compared with January 1985. "While services show an increase of only 14.7 per cent for the corresponding period."

The CPI for all income groups in January stood at 213.8 (base 1980: 100), compared with 207.4 in December 1985, and 177.1 a year ago.

The index for food reached 214.7, up from 205.7 the previous month and 180.4 a year ago, while the commodity index rose to 211 compared with 203.0 in December and 170.7 in January 1985.

The year-on-year inflation rates by income groups for January are:

— Lower income group: inflation rate of 18.7 per cent (CPI: January 209.3, December 201.6, January 1985, 176.3).

— Middle income group: 20.7 per cent (CPI: January 216.1, December 209.3, January 1985, 179.0).

— Higher income group: 21.3 per cent (CPI: January 213.8, December 208.0, January 1985, 176.2).

Poll States Blacks, Indians, Coloreds, Back Mandela

MB211139 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1139 GMT
21 Feb 86

[Text] Durban, Feb 21, SAPA — The majority of blacks, Indians and coloureds want Nelson Mandela as the head of state in a non-racial South Africa, according to findings of a survey released by the Institute for Black Research in Durban today.

The survey also found that blacks would prefer Dr F. van Zyl Slabbert as head of a one-man, one-vote state than the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, or the KwaZulu chief minister, Chief Mangosuth Buthelezi.

The United Democratic Front emerged as the organisation with the greatest support, with the African National Congress a close second.

The Progressive Federal Party came fifth in the popularity stakes after the third-placed Azania People's Organisation and the Socialists.

Professor Fatima Meer, director of the institute, said Mandela would probably have received more than the 17.7 percent support if the survey had been done at the time he was not portrayed as a dying man.

Bishop Desmond Tutu was second with 16.6 percent, Dr Allan Boesak third with 13.3 percent, and Dr Slabbert fourth with 12.5 percent.

Prof Meer said that for the first time the ANC leader, Mr Oliver Tambo, appeared on the popularity list (fifth) with 10.1 percent as well as Mr Walter Sisulu (sixth) with 7.1 percent. Then came Mr P.W. Botha with 4.6 percent, followed by Chief Buthelezi with 4.1 percent, the Rev Allan Hendrickse and Mr Saths Cooper with 1.4 percent, and Mr A. Rajbansi with 0.7 percnet.

The survey was held in the Transvaal, Natal, and eastern Cape.

In reply to the question: "What sort of parliament would you like to see in South Africa?" 67.5 percent said a non-racial unitary state. Nine percent wanted a unitary state with proportional presentation by race.

The popularity of the UDF was 23.5 percent, the ANC 20, AZAPO 10.1, the Socialists 6.7, the PFP 6,4, Inkatha 3.5, the National Party 2.7, and the Pan-African Congress 2.6.

Mandela Expects No Release 'Within Weeks, Months'

MB221124 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1059 GMT
22 Feb 86

[Text] Cape Town, Feb 22, SAPA — Jailed African National Congress leader, Nelson Mandela, does not expect to be released within weeks or even months, his daughter Zindzi said yesterday after she and her mother Mrs Winnie Mandela, visited him in Pollsmoor Prison.

She said her father wanted to end speculation that he was to be released soon. "There is nothing new."

Mr Mandela and her daughter arrived at D.F. Malan Airport yesterday morning accompanied by General Olusegun Obasanjo, of the commonwealth eminent persons group. He did not visit Mr Mandela.

Black Township To Be Established in Mariannhill

MB211329 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1328 GMT
21 Feb 86

[Text] Cape Town, Feb 21, SAPA — The government has decided to "recognise" the permanence of blacks living in the greater Mariannhill area, near Pinetown in Natal.

This emerged from a joint statement in Cape Town today by the minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Chris Heunis, and the ministers of local governemnt in the Houses of Representatives and Delegates, Mr David Curry and Mr Baldeo Dookie.

They said the St Wendolins Ridge, Klaarwater and intervening areas would be developed into a black township within the republic "as a matter of urgency." The decision was made "in the interests of orderly development."

While residents in the area would be allowed to own land, the ministers emphasised that "this decision will not prejudice ongoing negotiations concerning the search for equitable solutions to the overall development problems of the sub-region."

Malcolm Fraser, Nigerian Walk on 'Whites Only' Beach

MB240606 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1923 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Port Elizabeth, Feb 23, SAPA — The presence of a large contingent of security forces — SA Police and Defence Force members — at Port Elizabeth's whites only beaches yesterday has been slammed by two of the city's MP's who said it could not have been more badly timed.

A police spokesman described the presence as "a normal patrol."

The security forces presence coincided with a visit to Port Elizabeth by former Australian prime minister Mr Malcolm Fraser, and Nigeria's General Olysegun Obasanjo, who walked along Kings Beach and photographed the "whites only" signs. Both are members of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group (EPG).

Mr John Malcomess, PFP MP for Central, said the "latest debacle to defend integrated beaches" while the EPG was in Port Elizabeth would give the EPG "most unfortunately but nevertheless a true picture of apartheid in South Africa," he said.

Security force members were evident in armoured vehicles while others were seen patrolling along the waters edge. Their presence was apparently related to the possibility of black employees of General Motors [GM] visiting the beaches after GM last week offered to support "legally and financially" any of its 3,000 black employees prosecuted for swimming at the city's "whites only" beaches.

However, a police spokesman maintained that the patrols were normal procedure and said the police were not aware that the EPG delegation would be visiting the city. The beaches had not been guarded to protect them, he said.

The spokesman described the presence of the security forces as "a normal patrol. We have often patrolled that specific area in the past," he said.

Asked who had been responsible for the decision to patrol the beachfront yesterday, he said he did not know and doubted if a specific decision to patrol the beaches had been taken because patrols were normal.

For months the Port Elizabeth City Council has been waging a battle to retain "whites only" beaches, a topic which will be debated again at a full council meeting on Thursday.

Mr Andrew Savage, the PFP MP for Walmer, said today the council was seriously threatening the prosperity and stability of the city.

"The council will have to make up its mind whether Port Elizabeth is going to have employment or whether it's going to have segregated beaches.

"At this time in the 20th century the international world is not prepared any more to do business with people who preserve an antiquated and vicious system of segregation which denies people the ability to use a natural amenity on the colour of their skin."

General Motors' managing director, Mr Bob White, said he preferred not to comment about the presence of the security forces along the beachfront. "I doubt if any of our employees would have gone to the beaches over the weekend."

He emphasised that GM's pledge to pay the legal expenses of any of its black employees prosecuted for using the "whites-only" beaches was not aimed at encouraging people to break the ordinance prohibiting blacks from using the beaches, but at encouraging the city council to change the ordinance.

Alexandra Provisional Death Toll at 46

MB211928 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1927 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 21, SAPA — An Alexandra community leader said today the provisional death toll in Alexandra had reached 46.

Definite figures would hopefully be available on Sunday, said Mr Mike Beea, chairman of the Alexandra Civic Association, after a South African Council of Churches and community delegation reported back to Alexandra residents on talks with government representatives.

Police have put the official toll at 22. About 28 people remained unccounted for, Mr Beea alleged.

Confusion arose because the township population were afraid to come forward and furnish information, he said at a press conference in Johannesburg.

Strikes Spread to Two More Stores Near Pretoria

MB211000 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0946 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 21, SAPA — Strikes have spread to another two Pick n Pay stores in the Pretoria area after yesterday's unsuccessful negotiations between the Retail Allied Workers Union and the stores regional managment. The strikes spread to the Gezina and Doringkloof Pick n Pay branches.

Negotiations centered on the alleged breach of a recognition agreement. This followed the dismissal of two shop stewards, Mr

Aaron Setlema and Mr Conrad Matabane on Wednesday for labour unrest.

Mr Setlema alleged yesterday he was assulted by an employee of the Verwoerdburg Pick n Pay branch, who was reinstated after an official inquiry. Mr Setlema expressed his anger at the action. He said none of the witnesses of the alleged offence had been called upon at the inquiry.

Union leader Mr Donsie Khumalo said management rejected proposals submitted yesterday calling for the reinstatement of the workers and dismissal of the other employee.

Regional manager, Mr Nick Els, said the committee could not unconditionally dismiss and reinstate workers but had to follow procedures. He said, although the negotiations deadlocked yesterday, revised proposals would be open for negotiation this morning.

They disapproved of Mr Kumalo's alleged threats that he would incite further strikes if they did not agree to the unions proposals.

The union revised its proposals and negotiations will continue today.

Police Prohibit Memorial Service in Soweto

MB220543 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] The divisional commissioner of the police in Soweto, Brigadier Jan Coetsee, has prohibited a memorial service planned by the Soweto Youth Congress which was to have been held in Soweto tomorrow. The banning takes effect at 0800 this morning and ends at 0800 on Monday morning. The banning applies to the municipal areas of Soweto, Deep Meadow, Dobsonville, Lenasia, Eldorado Park, and Noordgeseg situated in the magisterial districts of Johannesbrug and Roodepoort.

The prohibition is imposed in terms of the Public Safety Act.

Detained AZAPO Members Announce Food Boycott

MB240536 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1603 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 24, SAPA — Fifteen members of the Azanian Peoples Organisation [AZAPO] detained under the state of emergency plan to start a food boycott at Modder Bee Prison near Benoni on the East Rand on Monday as "a token of protest" and to seek legal assistance.

A "declaration" signed by the 15, smuggled out of Modder Bee and released by AZAPO, said they were committing themselves to an "indefinite food boycott" in protest against "continued white minority domination" and "national oppression and economic exploitation."

Expounding the principles of the "Azanian Peoples Manifesto," the 15 detainees are demanding:

— "The right to work; the right to form trade unions that will heighten revolutionary workers consciousness; the establishment of a democratic, anti-racist worker Republic of Azania where the interests of the worker shall be paramount through workers control; state provision of free and compulsory education for all; development of one national progressive culture; state provision of adequate and decent housing; state provision of free health, legal, recreational and other community services; and the land and all that belongs to it shall be wholly owned and controlled by the Azanian people."

To this end they called for the dismantling of apartheid; transfer of power unconditionally; and the lifting of the state of emergency.

Khayelitsha Women March on Development Board Offices

MB211854 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1553 GMT 21 Feb 86

[Text] Cape Town, Feb 21, SAPA — Over 800 women from Khayelitsha today marched on the Western Cape Administration Board offices in the township to present their grievances on housing to board officials.

More than 30 percent of the township's residents have been refusing to pay rent since November last year in protest against the poor state of their housing.

The march follows notices by the board requiring the women to report to the board offices but officials agreed only to meet a delegation of six people. The six leaders of the women, who asked not to be identified, said their grievances were that their houses were beginning to develop cracks in the walls and roofs and doors had large gaps where rain and windblown sand poured in.

Many of the one-roomed, one-kitchen and one-lavatory core houses had as many as 13 people living in one room.

They said they paid R20 a month for rent as compared to Guguletu where the rent on a four-roomed hosue was R18.67 and in Langa where rent on a two-roomed house was R8 a month.

Repeated complaints to the board meet with the response "you must fix your houses yourself," the women said.

"Our bedrooms are so small you cannot even separate them into two rooms. I live here with my husband, my two daughters who are 17 and 18 and my son who is 12," one woman said, adding that "many men are divorcing their wives because they cannot live together properly like man and wife."

Her neighbours' tiny bedroom accommodates parents, six children, the husband of one daughter and three grandchildren, a total of 12 people in a room which is roughly the size of a small study in a normal suburban home.

"We don't want to boycott the rents, but the only thing we can do is boycott. That is the only way they will listen to us black people," the leaders said.

A spokesman for the board, Mr Sampie Steenkamp, confirmed the details of the meeting as described by the women. Their main complaint was that their houses were too small. They were told they must pay their rent and build on or buy their houses.

"We said we cannot lower their rents any further, because it is already heavily subsidised," he said.

Police Issue Latest Unrest Situation Reports

Early 22 Feb

MB220713 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0709 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 22, SAPA — The following is the unrest report up to 7.30am from the Police Directorate of Public Relations in Pretoria:

"In Kagiso, West Rand, the police acted after a delivery vehicle had been stoned by blacks. One black male under 18 years was wounded and arrested.

"In Soweto, Johannesburg, three blacks petrol bombed a private lorry. Burn wounds were inflicted to one black male and two black females. There was no police action.

"In Langa, western province, blacks stoned a private vehicle which resulted in injuries to one black male.

"In Tembisa black township, Kempton Park, blacks petrol bombed a police vehicle. The police arrested 16 black males over 18.

"In Lamontville black township, in Port Natal, blacks stoned a private house. Two black males over 18 were seriously wounded by the mob. There were no arrests."

Ends report.

Late 22 Feb

MB230542 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1729 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 22, SAPA — Following is the unrest report until 7pm tonight issued to SAPA by the police public relations division in Pretoria.

In Soshanguve, the corpse of a black policeman, Constable M.J. Lehutso, was found. He had been stoned, necklaced and set on fire. He was stationed at Soshanguve police station. No arrests have been made.

In Soweto, about 200 blacks stoned a delivery vehicle. Police used shotguns to disperse them. One man was injured and arrested.

Early 23 Feb

MB231122 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1120 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 23, SAPA — The following is the unrest report up to 7 am from the police directorate of public relations in Pretoria:

"In the black township of Nelspruit a group of about 500 blacks set fire to two restaurants, a doctors consulting rooms, bottle-store, butchery, offices of the Education Department, three delivery vehicles, and damaged houses of members of the South African police. The police had to use shotguns, rubber bullets and tearsmoke to disperse the mob. Three black men were arrested and one was slightly injured.

"An explosion in a telephone booth at the Meyerspark post office on Watermeyer Street in the Pretoria district caused severe damage to the post office building, a neighbouring pharmacy, greengrocer and butchery at 0015 hrs this morning.

"In the black township of Petrusville in the southwestern Cape blacks stoned a private house and the police arrested one black man."

Late 23 Feb

MB240530 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1720 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 23, SAPA — Following is the SA Police 7 pm unrest situation report:

"In Atteridgeville (Pretoria) township a black female aged 54 was taken to hospital after she had been burnt by petrol which had been thrown over her by blacks. There was no arrest or any police action.

"In Brits black township blacks set fire to a shop. One black youth was arrested. In another incident in the same township about 200 blacks stoned an SAP vehicle. The police had to shoot with 9 mm pistols. One black man was wounded and arrested."

Ends report.

Early 24 Feb

MB240619 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0606 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 24, SAPA — Here follows the South African Police unrest report up to 8am issued by the SAP's public relations division in Pretoria.

"The following incidents of unrest were reported last night:

"In Mamelodi, near Pretoria, a post office building was damaged by arsonists and a man arrested for placing barricades in a road.

"At Kwadabeza, near Pinetown, a large mob stoned an SAP vehicle and a private vehicle. A policeman was slightly injured.

The mob was dispersed with tearsmoke, shotgun and pistol fire. Three men were slightly wounded and arrested.

"At Bridgeton in the south-western Cape a policeman was slightly injured when the vehicle in which he was travelling was stoned.

"At Zwide, police vehicles and policemen's homes were stoned and petrol-bombed. On one occasion, two shots were fired at policemen guarding a policeman's home. Tearsmoke and shotgun rounds were fired to disperse these mobs. A youth was killed during one of the incidents.

"In the black residential area near Brits, a hotel was extensively damaged when it was petrol-bombed."

Press Examines Current Issues, Problems

[Editorial Report] **Adverse Effects of Debt Accord**
Daan de Kock reports on page 2 of Johannesburg *THE CITIZEN* in English on 21 February that "South Africa reluctantly agreed to the proposals to end the standstill on the country's foreign debt yesterday, but in fact had very few alternative options open, economists said last night." The economists believe "the agreement will place a heavy burden on the country and that the stimulation of consumer demand could be adversely affected."

Speeches in Parliament

In a series of reports on speeches in Parliament on page 4, *THE CITIZEN* notes that PFP MP Roger Burrows said in the House of Assembly that "separate education was a dead-end street leading to a 'brick wall of violent rejection.' " Burrows suggested "South Africa institute a system of schools for different language groups as well as bilingual schools and multi-cultural schools" and allow parents to decide where to send their children. Another report says that the minister of the budget in the House of Representatives, Andrew Julies, presented his budget to the house, which makes provision for spending 532 million rands, a 33 percent increase over last year. Julies said the budget "proved the Labour Party's continued commitment to obtaining the maximum benefits for the Coloured community." Another report notes that Jan van Zyl, a Conservative Party MP, told the House of Assembly that his party "could not support the House's Part Appropriations Bill unless the Government undertook to restore the sovereignity of the white Parliament." Van Zyl also said the government must take steps to combat "inflation, white unemployment and to ensure the safety of white farmers."

CITIZEN on Botha-Slabbert Transcript

Commenting on the release of the transcript of the 25 November meeting between former PFP leader Fredrik van Zyl Slabbert and President Botha in an editorial on page 6, *THE CITIZEN* says "the hullabaloo" that has been created over the release of the transcript "should be over the fact that Dr Slabbert, in the first instance, breached the confidentiality of the discussions." The president's reasons for recording the talk were justified and since Slabbert believed his talks with the president were being taped, "he can hardly be upset when this is confirmed." The espisode of the transcript shows that "it is Dr Slabbert, not the state president, who has lost credibility," *THE CITIZEN* concludes.

Treurnicht Criticizes SABC

"The leader of the Conservative Party, Dr Andries Treurnicht, last night accused the SA Broadcasting Corporation of deliberately paving the way for Chief Gatsha Buthelezi to become South Africa's first black president," the paper reports on page 8. Treunricht also said unbanning the ANC would be "the beginning of the end," and warned clergymen who are seeking to negotiate with the ANC that they were " 'playing with fire.' " "The whole trend of Government policy was towards integration," Treurnicht said and "unless the whites stood together now and booted out the Botha government, it would be the end of democracy and white self-determination."

PFP By-Election Victory

"The Transvaal leader of the Progressive Federal Party, Mr Douglas Gibson, said yesterday that the victory of PFP candidate, Mr Nick Muller, with an increased majority in Wednesday's Randburg Town Council by-election, was an endorsement of voters' confidence in the new PFP leader, Mr Colin Eglin," the paper reports on the same page. Muller received 58 votes more than the National Party candidate.

Second-Tier Government Plan

"A second tier of government with multiracial legislatures and an option to include national states may replace provincial councils this year," *THE STAR* reports on page 3. "Government sources say the new second-tier system will include whites, Indians, coloured people, and non-homeland blacks but is also likely to include what has become loosely known as the 'Natal option.' "

Opposition to Medical Discrimination

"The newly appointed minister of health and welfare in the House of Delegates, Mr Ismail Kathrada, says he will fight to eliminate racial discrimination in medical and health services," Kashvinga Jaga reports on page 8. Kathrada said he was opposed to the recent Transvaal Provincial Administration directive calling for the transfer of black and Indian patients from Coronation Hospital and added that a top priority was to establish health services in rural and urban areas where they were lacking.

STAR on Debt Agreement

Commenting on the agreement on the country's foreign debt repayments in an editorial in page 12, *THE STAR* says that Fritz Leutwiler's negotiations "have bought the country a little more time, though it would be foolish to imagine it is more than that. The large debts remain; the anxiety of creditor banks is still there; and the political situation at home remains unresolved and volatile." South Africa needs "an adequate flow of foreign capital" and this "will not be possible without political — as well as economic — reform."

STAR on GM Offer

In another editorial on the same page, *THE STAR* comments on General Motors offer of legal and financial support to black employees who violate Port Elizabeth's beach desegregation law, noting the move "won't harm the company's image in the United States, or among local blacks. It is well accepted in South Africa now that business has both a right and a duty to involve itself in politics." Reform could "begin to look a good deal more real if other companies followed its bold lead."

Opposition to CBD Opening

In an article on reaction to the opening of free trading areas in Johannesburg's and Durban's central business districts (CBD's), Sue Dobson notes that Koos van Der Merwe, a Conservative Party MP, said " 'we are vehemently against this announcement. It will destroy the principle of separate development and blacks will swamp whites in their own areas and eventually take political control.' " Jaap Marais, the leader of the Reformed National Party "said it would lead to further racial integration and friction in business and residential areas."

Mixed Reaction to Debt Agreement

Deputy finance editor Duncan Collings reports on page 14 that "the overriding reaction to the agreement reached yesterday between South Africa and its creditor banks is one of relief." Organized commerce and industry welcomed the agreement "insofar as it removes the enormous uncertainty under which they have been operating since last August," but caution that it will take a long time until South African borrowers "are welcomed back into the international capital markets." Bankers, foreign exchange dealers, and stock market brokers also welcomed the agreement, but warn "that the country is a very long way from coming out of the woods and that difficult times brought about by the new conditions of the agreement lie ahead."

Slabbert on Transcript's Release

Peter Wallington reports on pages 1 and 2 of Johannesburg *BUSINESS DAY* in English on 21 February that former PFP leader Slabbert, commenting on the state president's release of a transcript of talks between the two and the refusal of National Intelligence Service (NIS) Chief Neil Barnard to release a transcript of his talks with Slabbert, said he found it " 'inexplicable that the government is prepared to make public a confidential discussion bugged without my knowledge, but is not prepared to disclose what I said to the head of NIS when I specifically asked him to record and transcribe my discussion and to make it available to the state president and whomsoever he wanted.' " Slabbert added that " 'I therefore have to assume there is a sinister motive in the manner in which the state president's office has tried to impugn my credibility.' "

No Vote on Moutse

Barry Streck reports on page 4 that PFP chief whip Brian Bamford said the government had refused to allow a vote in the House of Assembly on its decision to incorporate Moutse into KwaNdebele. Bamford added that "the PFP intended pursuing the matter further, 'although it appears there are no further parliamentary avenues that we can use.' "

Eglin To Question Botha

In another report on the same page, Streck says that acting PFP leader Colin Eglin is to question President Botha on his recording of a conversation with former PFP leader Slabbert. Eglin will ask Botha whether all his conversations are recorded and if participants are told of this fact beforehand.

Increase in Strikers

"There was a sharp rise in the number of workers involved in strikes in South Africa last year — and the number of strikers was the highest in at least ten years," Barry Streck reports on page 4 of *BUSINESS DAY*. "Last year 212,660 workers of all races went on strike — compared with 181,942 in 1984." A total of 5,426,178 man hours were lost due to strikes and work stoppages.

Suzman Protests Brits Removals

Streck reports on the same page that PFP MP Helen Suzman told the House of Assembly that the removal of 10,000 blacks from Brits should be stopped immediately. " 'One continues to be amazed at government's creating situations which can only lead to misery and further unrest,' " Suzman said.

BUSINESS DAY Welcomes Debt Agreement

"The Leutwiler foreign debt deal is a good one not only for South Africa but also for the creditor banks," *BUSINESS DAY* says in an editorial on page 5. "Clearly its aim is to reduce the influence on politics on the financing of the South African economy, restore the primacy of financial inducements, rather than political bravado, to endeavours of the country's creditors, and enable those who wish to withdraw to do so unobtrusively." Debt negotiator Leutwiler "is cleverly twisting politics out of the scheme of things and is assuming that political reform here will give the process momentum in the years ahead. Essentially, he is giving State President Botha another chance to reassure the world capital markets that he is serious in his professed endevour to abolish apartheid."

SOWETAN on Transport Fare Hikes

In a page 6 editorial on the 10 percent raise of government employees, the *SOWETAN* says: "The gut response to the motive behind the salary increases of public servants is that the Government is trying to 'buy' back confidence and votes. It is common knowledge that civil servants and other blue collar workers are the right-wing sector of the white constituency that is giving Mr P.W. Botha and his friends so much trouble." However, the 10 to 15 percent increase in rail and air fares "means that the majority of people, who pay taxes but are unrepresented, will feel the burden even more." "We know instinctively that coupled with the dismaying actions of the police, it only needs this type of economic hassle to increase the unrest."

Tutu 'Caught in Crossfire'

In the "Focus" column on the same page, Sam Mabe writes that Bishop Desmond Tutu is "caught in a crossfire from the black left and the white right." Whites see him as "a radical priest," and he is an "embarrassment and troublemaker" to the government, while "among average black radicals, Bishop Tutu is regarded as a 'softie' whose moderate stance is retarding the liberation struggle." Bishop Tutu's condemnation of violence by blacks and whites could make him "a hero who may die because of his courage," Mabe says.

BEELD on Learning Languages

Johannesburg *BEELD* in Afrikaans on 21 February says in an editorial on page 8 that "language is the most emotional communication medium a person possesses." For an Afrikaans-speaking person there are words that cannot portray the same feeling in other languages. The same applies to English, Zulu, etc. No wonder black school children, as a result of the foreign languages they have to learn, resort to acts of unrest out of frustration, according to Mrs C.M. Webb of the Soweto College of Education. But it should be made clear to them that South Africa is a bilingual country, and that a person who masters both the official languages will always have a job advantage.

ILANGA on Slabbert Resignation

Durban *ILANGA* in Zulu on 13-15 February carries an editorial on page 4 saying that "Dr Frederick van Zyi Slabbert's resignation as leader of the opposition party, PFP, in the South African Parliament has carved an unprecedented path, which if followed by many more others would help straighten out many crooked issues in our government." "We see Dr Slabbert's unexpected exit from parliamentary politics as a pointer to the futility of present parliamentary practices." "We wonder how many more people are going to follow Dr Slabbert's example. Should they be a sizeable group, it would drive the Nationalist Party government up against an impregnable wall."

ILANGA on Botha's Contradictions

In another editorial in English on page 4, the paper says that "The state president, Mr P.W. Botha, must surely be his own worst enemy. No sooner had he put in a masterful performance with his impressive opening speech in Parliament last week, than he went and threw it all down the drain — just like that." "Many blacks, we are sure, must have been ready to buy Mr Botha's reformist package", when Mr Botha came out in his true colors giving "one of his most senior cabinet ministers, Mr Pik Botha, a humiliating dressing down — all because the latter had spoken of the possibility that this country might one day be ruled by a black state president." "So, now we know he is not prepared to go all the way, even to the extent of accepting a black president." Mr Botha "has confirmed black fears and black suspicions about his motives. We cannot see that any thoughtful and self-respecting black leader would in the circumstances want to align himself with Mr Botha's proposed reforms," which "are clearly a sham, a farce, an attempt to fool us all into believing the emperor is fully and decently clothed when, in fact, he is stark naked." "Mr Botha will have to do better, much better, before he can hope to impress us or win our confidence with his declarations for a changed South Africa."

CITY PRESS on Alexandra

Johannesburg *CITY PRESS* in English on 23 February [date as published] reports on page 1 that 27 people have been killed in Alexandra and the Alexandra Action Committee and other groups monitoring the situation say as many as 80 could have died. A reporter from the paper visited the health center in the townships and "found that over 70 people had been treated — the majority with serious bullet wounds." A doctor told the reporter that police had visited the center and asked about a particular person but information had been refused. "Police trucks moved in and out of the township with furniture and belongings belonging to members of the police force. One policeman told *CITY PRESS*: 'We are leaving this place ... We see we have no future here.' "

Witbank Stayaway

In a report on the Witbank stayaway on page 4, the paper said the police had arrested 856 unemployed people gathered at Ackerville Stadium last Sunday to discuss their employment problems, which had provoked the week-long stayaway. The mass arrests caused chaos in the courts and prison. Arrestees were fined between R60 and R10 and were discharged. In other incidents in the town, township residents told the paper that the raid by security forces last Friday they thought was "a direct result of the attack on the busload of white people," although police denied that any such incident had occurred.

East Cape Ungovernable

The *CITY PRESS* reports on page 4 that "black local government in the eastern Cape has collapsed — the townships have become 'ungovernable' and there is a deficit of 12 million on rent and service charges." Witwatersrand University Lecturer Mark Swilling told the paper "the proposed regional services councils have all the ingredients of a disaster." He spent 2 weeks collecting data on street committees in the Eastern Cape and said that " 'the government has no support for the regional services councils and if it goes ahead with its plans, it will have to do this coercively and repeat all the mistakes it made when it went ahead with community councils, black local councils, administration and development boards and even white municipalities'."

Alexandra Residents Frustrated

Also on its front page, *THE STAR* reports that Alexandra residents left the report back meeting with the high-powered church delegation " 'disgruntled, grumbling and disappointed.' " Residents who left before the end said: " 'it was totally unsatisfactory and had nothing to offer. The attitude of the authorities destabilises the situation in the townships completely. We are very disappointed about the failure of the government to immediately accede to our demands.' "

Whites 'Oblivious of Realities'

In his "Undercurrent Affairs" column on the same page, Harvey Tyson notes the contrasts between the unreal world of Sun City, where all races mingle, and the poverty and apartheid nearby and says the contrasts in Johannesburg are even greater. "Despite the burnings and the shootings, the alleged murders and the riots in their midst, white Johannesburgers seem almost oblivious of the realities." No one he talked with had any knowledge of what was going on in Alexandra nor had he met any voter who had set foot in the township in the past year. Although this is typical of any city, "the contrast between the suburbs and the township, the deep ignorance of ratepayers and their apparent inhumanity form an unanswerable indictment of apartheid and the attitudes it has created." "Why are so few concerned?" "Undoubtedly the main reason is that the populace has been conditioned." This conditioning, which causes whites to ignore information in the press, is compounded by censorship. Again, the press were kept out of the township so false information concerning the deaths could not be verified. He says it is understandable that foreigners cannot understand the contrasts in a country where 143 of 170 English-speaking private primary and secondary schools in the province admitted "non-whites" last year, in which a majority of English-speaking urban people favored mixed schools, and where some Indians are locked up for ANC activities while apolitical Indians have to flee from ANC rioters.

Reaction to Debt Agreement

Johannesburg *THE WEEKLY MAIL* in English in its 21-27 February edition carries a front page story on the agreement on South Africa's debt and cites one banker as saying that even the modest five percent payment this year is widely viewed as " 'onerous for South Africa.' " Other sources noted "the plan is far tougher than the original proposal by Pretoria asking for an extension of the debt freeze until 1990," which was rejected outright. The 5 percent was viewed as an " 'upfront' payment, mostly as a gesture of South Africa's good faith."

Desegregate Schools

The Human Sciences Research Council Working Party on education met in Pretoria and recommended the " 'immediate desegregation of all education' " because " 'many of the problems in education result from segregated education and the enforced separation of language communities,' " the paper reports on page 70. Among the 200 people attending the meeting to discuss the problems blacks have when switching to English as a medium of instruction, " 'there was a very strong feeling that the poor quality of education, particularly in the area of language, cannot be divorced from the political situation in the country and the fact that most black students and teachers have no contact with mother tongue speakers of English.' "

Slabbert Criticized

In his "In the House" column on page 8, Jean Le May discusses the talks between President Botha and former PFP leader Slabbert. He says his problem with the transcript of the talks is "I find it hard to believe that this was an opposition leader talking to the head of the government with anything other than the offer of close cooperation in mind." He said Slabebrt may have emphasized points of agreement in order to go on to other topics of negotiation but he cannot escape the view that Slabbert "didn't want to watch from the stalls or even from the wings, he wanted to be right there in the green room." He notes the paternalistic character of several of Slabbert's remarks and says he hopes for Slabbert's sake, the full transcript is not released.

Charges Against SADF

In an article on page 9, *THE WEEKLY MAIL* reports that the ministers of law and order and of defense had promised that SADF members would not commit " 'unlawful acts' " in Krugersdorp after affidavits had been presented against SADF conduct there. An embargo has been placed on publishing these affidavits. A Rand Supreme Court judge said these affidavits contained allegations " 'of a particularly grave nature' " concerning the conduct of police and SADF members in the townships of Kagiso 1 and 2 Munsieville.

Eglin on New PFP Strategy

On page 13, Jean Le May quotes in its entirety a statement by the new PFP leader Colin Eglin saying the party wants "to get away from the concept that what is happening inside Parliament and what is happening outside are separate." "The reality is now that the political arena has expanded right across the country and right across the racial divide. Politics is now being played out in a number of different sites right across the country." Parliament is important because it is the only place "where you can change or make laws" or call the government to account for its performance. However, the party has got to go to other sites where politics is important if it wants to be relevant. "We'll have to find ways and means of ensuring that there are more people out in the field investigating practical problems rather than letting the problems come to them."

Tutu Defends Memorandum to Coca-Cola

Johannesburg *SUNDAY TIMES* in English on 23 February reports on page 1 of its extra section that Bishop Desmond Tutu has said a memorandum to the Coca-Cola company was "not aimed at stopping the company from setting up a trust fund for black education." Tutu said the memorandum from himself, Dr Allan Boesak and Professor Jakes Gerwell was in response to a Coca-Cola offer for the men to serve on the fund's board of trustees, and simply laid down the conditions under which they would be willing to serve.

New Government Realism Noted

A "new mood of realism" in the cabinet was reflected in Minister of Law and Order Louis le Grange's address to the President's Council this week, reports Max de Preez on page 2. Le Grange acknolwedged the complexity of the causes of township violence and noted " 'it is doubtful whether the revolutionary climate in South Africa has decreased,' " a statement in "sharp contrast to earlier optimistic statements by President Botha that the revolutionary momentum was winding down." Du Preez criticizes Le Grange's explanation of what the government plans to do about the unrest, saying: "It revolves around efforts to create jobs, improving living conditions in the townships and employing more policemen — necessary steps but hardly an answer to the growing momentum of revolutionary violence."

'People's Education' Flourishing in Cape

Hilton Hamann reports on page 2 that a system of "liberation" or "people's" education is flourishing in black communities. "While white children attend school and prepare themselves for the future, some black schools are reportedly running an 'alternative education' system designed to politicise pupils and prepare them for the coming political struggle." "The youngsters, some of them pre-school children, are encouraged to write freedom songs and discuss issues such as police brutality and the presence of security forces in the townships. A spokesman for the Department of Education and Training, Mr Job Schoeman, confirmed the department was aware of the phrase 'People's Education'," and admitted that such education was a reality in parts of the eastern Cape.

Businesses Nervous Over Alexandra Unrest

"Businessmen were barricading their premises bordering Alexandra township this week after damage estimated at over R1-million by mobs on the rampage," Emielia Jaroschek and Boeti Eshak report on page 7. "The figure already exceeds the damage in the area caused in riots during last year — then estimated at R750,000." More than 200 Indian families have fled their homes and business premises in Wynberg, a mixed area across the road from the township, and white business owners are worried about what will happen once the security forces move out.

Effects of Township Violence Spread

"This week, residents of Johannesburg's northern suburbs, among the wealthiest communities on the globe, could hear on still nights the sounds of gunfire. The point, so easily lost in our hermetically sealed society, is simple: Civil violence touches everybody", the *SUNDAY TIMES* warns in an editorial on page 20. "Seven years ago the Rev Sam Buti [of Alexandra] was a township hero for defending his community against the vast callousness of Governemnt ideology. Today his home is under attack by young radicals, his life is in danger, his words drowned by the gunfire. On Wednesday Bishop Desmond Tutu was able to cool the anger of Alexandra. On Friday he was booed. Could he be Monday's Buti?"

Right-Wing Resurgence Greatest Threat

"Anybody can see that pre-revolutionary symptoms abound in South Africa, but it is much more difficult to say whether we are actually heading for revolution", Ken Owen notes on page 20. Lenin "saw quite clearly from the start that the key to revolution is the army", and the "crucial difference between revolutionary Russia and South Africa is the SADF. It does not consist of peasants, but of elite conscripts whose loyalty is not yet in question." The main problem with many conscripts, which are "if anything, more devoted than the government itself to the status quo," is not to retain their loyalty, but to "restrain their capacity for violence." "In South Africa, a right-wing resurgence based on the army still seems a greater threat than revolution."

PFP Radicalism Behind Slabbert Departure

It was the radical mindset of his own party and not his frustration over government's refusal to implement his policies, that drove Slabbert from the Parliament, says Otto Krause on page 21. It was the young, radical members of the PFP, who see a black takeover as inevitable, and "not Mr Botha — who painted Dr Slabbert into a corner." "The real PFP, not the one the radicals have hijacked, should now stand up."

STAR Reports Burning Incident

"An aunt of a victim of police shooting was seriously burnt yesterday when a policeman allegedly threw her into a fire during her nephew's funeral in Atteridgeville, Pretoria," Johannesburg the *SUNDAY STAR* in English on 23 February reports on page 1. Caroline Sithole said police attacked the house where mourners had gathered without provocation and had beaten many people, and a white policeman pushed her into the cooking fire. A police spokesman said, " 'The burning of the woman can be a rumour.' "

Council Split Over Group Areas

Members of the President's Council say the "government's persistent stand on suburban apartheid has destroyed consensus" in the council, which is dividing along largely racial lines over the issue, David Breier reports on page 1. The Group Areas Act "could be scrapped in the near future — but separate residential areas will stay. The most that can be hoped for is that the Government may turn a blind eye to areas in which mixing has already occurred, such as Hillbrow in Johannesburg and Woodstock in Cape Town." National Party members are taking their cue from recent government statements, and "now refuse to back down on separate suburbs." Colored and Indian members of the council were prepared to consider a compromise, which could have included "declaring new suburbs multiracial and could also have given local authorities the right to decide on mixed or gray areas." Colored, Indian, and PFP members of the committee examining the Group Areas Act will probably refuse to sign the majority report on the act or to be associated with it. The Nationalists might be prepared to give "a semblance of reform by changing the name of the Group Areas Act," or by following the Strydom Committee recommendations that the right of a race to occupy a site should be build into the title deeds rather than applied to the area as a whole. "Such a change might be aimed at world consumption but will make little impact locally."

Slabbert's Position Damaged by Transcripts

"Dr Van Zyl Slabbert's role in negotiation politics has been damaged after publication of disparaging remarks he made to President P.W. Botha in private about the ANC and Chief Magosuthu Buthelezi, the leader of Inkatha," Breier reports on page 2. "A prominent ANC member, talking in his private capacity, said the ANC had not yet studied the transcript but, he said, it appeared the effect was that blacks could not trust white political leaders." Slabbert said he told the ANC in Lusaka: " 'If you are so in control of the situation, why do you not call a moratorium on violence for six weeks and say look, we will show you.' They know they could not do it." Slabbert also said the young blacks in the townships are more militant than anything he came across in Lusaka.

Youths Warn of Official Assurances

Jon Qwelane reports on page 4 that a group of youths blocked Bishop Tutu's path as he left the Alexandra stadium following his address to residents on Friday, and demanded to know "where they were supposed to sleep because 'the police harass us and raid our homes every night'." Tutu stopped to talk to the youths, "who made it clear to the Bishop that whatever assurances the police and Government spokesmen gave him, they were not worth a tittle." One youth told him, " 'As soon as you leave here we will deal with the police in our own way because they are merciless.' "

Black Support for Botha 'Laughable'

In the "Just Jon" column on page 11 Qwelane says President Botha is "grievously mistaken" when he says he has the support of more than 50 percent of blacks. "He does not have any support worth talking about." "Any suggestion of 13 million blacks supporting apartheid would be laughable if it did not glaringly protray the tragic make-believe world of National Party politicians."

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Launches Movement To Politicize Children

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[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] It is happy birthday today to Zimbabwe's Prime Minister Robert Mugabe. He has marked his 62d birthday by launching a nationwide movement to politicize Zimbabwe's children. The movement will involve children from between 5 and 14 and it is supposed to prepare them for life in a socialist society. From Harare, Michelle Faul reports.

[Faul] Mr Mugabe told the inaugural conference of the movement, which was attended by 180 children from all nine provinces, that it is a forum for the systematic upbringing of children in line with the socialist goals of the ruling ZANU-PF party. It is called the 21st February Movement in honor of his birthday. Mr Mugabe said it will introduce children between the ages of 5 and 14 to the ideals of the party and prepare them to take over and continue the revolution. We must start now to impress upon our children the advantages of such a collective society, Mr Mugabe said. Zimbabwe could not hope to construct a socialist society without preparing its children for leadership roles within the new system. The movement will grow into one of the strongest wings of the party. A ZANU-PF paper outlining the aims of the movement said it will instill in children from the earliest age a love for their nation, the party and socialist policies. The movement will also (?seek) education and health care for all children and it will work with the party's women's league to ensure that there is harmony between the movement and children's mothers. Mr Mugabe is co-patron of the movement with his wife Sally. They will be known to the children as Baba na Amai. That is Shona for father and mother.